

HAPPY NEW YEAR to YOU ALL

“When I was a boy I used to think that strong meant having big muscles, great physical power; but the longer I live, the more I realise that real strength has more to do with what is not seen. Real strength has to do with helping others” Fred Rodgers (cited in Keeler, 2007)

Dear parents and friends of Cowgate,

The year 2010... doesn't that sound wonderful? Welcome to this New Year; welcome to this new time; our children are awakening to life and are experiencing many wonderful things for the first time; what will the children discover this year? What will they cherish...?

As I write the snow is falling outside, and the garden, and all that is in it is covered in a blanket of snow. Tomorrow is the first of January... a new beginning for all of us...

This newsletter brings news from the play / classrooms; staff training; care commission reminder, eco-school application...and that is all...a very small letter this month ☺

La Camera dei Bambini

There has been lots of fascination with the snow and ice...the children have loved playing in the garden in the snow. We are looking forward to welcoming Evie to the room in the New Year. Evie's older brother Ben has moved into the Salle de Jeux,

Salle de Jeux

The Salle de Jeux has sent their heartfelt thanks for looking after Harriet, our rabbit, over the festive period.

Sala Infantil

The Sala children had lots of fun in the snow. The children made a fabulous snowman in the garden (see background).

Leo has a baby brother, Connor, who came in to see us today! Leo says "When he cries he has three eyes" 😊 Oscar also has a new baby brother, Elliot.

*Scott would like to remind parents that the next **parents' forum** meeting will be held at 5pm on the 2nd Wednesday in January.*

Thank you to Lian and her wonderful family for looking after Louis, the guinea pig, over Christmas.

If anyone would ever like to take a pet home for the weekend, please let us know.

Looking forward to welcoming a new friend, Oscar to the room in the New Year.

Child Psychology Diploma

Many of the staff team have embarked on a self-funded course on 'Child Psychology'. The diploma has four assignments, congratulations to Liz, who has had confirmation of passing her first assignment.

PhD

Finally, my PhD classes begin in January, I am very much looking forward to attending classes, my first class, I believe, is on 'Listening to Children' how wonderful. As a staff team we are always sharing our knowledge with one another, I look very much to sharing what I learn with everyone at Cowgate.

Care Commission

Our Care Commission Inspection is imminent. Thank you to everyone who has supported the process so far.

Eco-School Application 3rd Green Flag

Lorraine has entered our 3rd Green Flag Application...watch this space 😊

As I reflect on how much the children have loved the current weather I thought I would end with a final view from the children about the natural world...

A Child's View

Children form an up close and personal relationship with the world and they experience the outdoors in a different way than we adults do. While it is true that they are literally closer to the ground than we are, our vantage points differ in deeper and more important ways.

Children are tuned in to the magic of life in ways that too many of us have tuned out. They are firmly living in the present moment and can focus on small, intimate places that we adults take for granted. Have you ever paid a visit to your old childhood stomping ground only to be surprised by the small scale of everything? 2These couple trees were

the 'Huge Forest'? That pumpkin-sized rock was the 'Giant Boulder'? This trickling runoff ditch was, 'The River'?" It's an interesting point to consider, especially when we are creating new outdoor environments for children. Features do not have to be on an adult scale. If you are three-feet tall, standing on top of a gentle three-foot hill changes your entire perspective. To a child, it really is a mountain. A small cluster of dwarf fruit trees is enough to give a child the experience of being in a 'forest', and a trickle of water through a carved log is a creek. It's the small thing in a child's environment that creates the biggest interest and excitement; a splashing puddle, a delicate butterfly, or a lawn dotted with a golden dandelions... (Keeler, 2007:39)

Thought provoking?

Warm wishes until next month...

Lynn and the Cowgate team

p.s If you wish I could tell you about the 'Investiture' next month and my visit to Buckingham Palace...