



August /September 2007 – Parent Newsletter

Dear Parent,

We continue to welcome new children and their families to the centre. We hope everyone has settled in well and is enjoying nursery. If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to your key person, Jane, Lorraine, Rowan, Karen Linda or myself.

Curriculum

Standards Quality Improvement Plan

A brief summary of this plan will follow this newsletter. An in depth report can be found in each of the play / classrooms and a copy is in the family room.

Five key curricular policies

In the entrance hall you will find a copy of the five key curricular policies that influence our practice. These are available on our website. If you would like a hard copy please ask Amie or myself. If there is any part of these policies you would like clarified please arrange to meet with me to discuss them. I am very happy to do this.

Personal Learning Folder

All the children should now have their Personal Learning Planning (PLP) folder for this year. Many families have started filling them in – thank you. When your child is in the centre their folder is accessible to them. Children are encouraged to be autonomous in the centre, they can choose their folder and show it to their

friends when they wish to. In this way there is a positive link between home and the centre and each child can develop their self-esteem as well as an appreciation of their friends. As the year progresses we will accumulate pictures of your child going about their day in the centre, these will be placed in the folder – often with your child present. We ask that you take the PLP folder away with you during holidays or significant events to record a beautiful picture of your child's year.

Can I remind everyone who has a folder at home to return them now please?

What's in a Name Tree

Thank you to everyone who has brought in a photograph of their child along with an explanation of why you gave them such interesting names.

The tree is a lovely representation of the children growing together in the Centre. Each child enjoys a great sense of satisfaction and self-worth when they can see themselves on the tree and show this to their friends. Through this, children also learn to respect one another.

Furthermore, the children are introduced to the many wonderful associations and cultural values that are contained in each name.

If you have not brought in your photograph and explanation yet, please do. I have placed cards in the vestibule for you to write why you called 'Johnny' Johnny. If you could return this explanation with a photograph we will display it on our tree the same day. Thank you.

Dance

Many parents have enquired about dance this session, as soon as we hear if it is going ahead we will let you know.

French and Music

French and music classes are due to start soon. Please let us know if you are interested in these for your child.

Eco-school

We have completed our application for our second Green Flag. Please review our action plan. It is situated on the eco-table. Thank you for your on-going support with recycling.

Healthyschools

We will submit a portfolio for accreditation as a Health Promoting School in October. Thanks so much to the children, parents and staff who have already helped with this – we will be asking for more help and your opinions soon.

Parents / Staff Consultation Meetings

These begin the week beginning 18th September. A schedule will go on play / classroom doors, please enter a time suitable for you.

Thank you

Thank you so much for attending our evening celebration on Thursday. It was wonderful to see all our children who have moved onto school and celebrate our success in rebuilding 'Willow Cottage'. A special thanks to Amie for all her hard work. Thank you to all the staff who returned after a busy day in the centre. The overall opinion was that we need to have more of these events. I could not agree more. Our new gazebo was wonderful and will support more outdoor events in all weathers.

Snacks / Meals in the Centre

Our Bambinis have begun to bake bread for morning snack. This is a lovely sustaining experience for all our children. Staff have asked me to remind parents that the children no longer need to provide additional snacks, such as breakfast snacks or afternoon tea snacks. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Forest School Training

I am delighted to inform you that Jane (class teacher) has received word that she has been accepted onto the Forest School Leaders Training Programme. This does mean significant work for Jane and wonderful experiences for our children. Jane will be off the week beginning the 10th September to attend an intensive course and when she returns she will begin to plan a six week programme of experiences for our children. As a centre we are very pleased that a member of our team has been successful in gaining a place on this course. I am sure as a team we will all learn so much from the experience and our children will ultimately benefit in many, many exciting ways.

Have a lovely month

Warmest wishes

Lynn