



Dear Parents,

July 2007 - Newsletter

It is a beautiful summers day outside. Long may it continue.

Saying Goodbye

This letter is always tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to many children as they go onto school. It has been a pleasure teaching the children and working alongside parents. One chapter closes and another chapter...

Staffing

A very warm welcome to Karen (previously Salle de Jeux). Karen will now co- line manage La Camera Dei Bambini. Karen's added responsibilities will include being our Additional Support for Learning Co-ordinator and Fire Risk Assessment Officer.

We said goodbye to Elaine this month. Elaine has gone back to Ireland, we will miss her very much.

We are finding that the two hours at the end of day does not suit many people, and we need to be prepared to accept that there may often be staff changes during this period at the end of day. Considering this we continue

to believe that the children benefit from the consistency of staff working the same hours everyday, i.e., 7.45am – 3.30pm.

New Children

We are preparing the environment to welcome our many new children, who will arrive over the period of July / August.

Can I remind parents not to send nuts in their child's lunch box as we have children with nut allergies in the centre. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Architect Visitors from Britain, France and Spain

Lian gave a tour to 30 visitors on Saturday 7th July. Lian reported how impressed everyone was with our building. They also stated their pleasure at seeing real woodwork tools at the woodwork bench ☺

Bags

Lorraine is in the process of making little canvas bags for the children's spare clothes and belongings. These will be on sale for £2.00. All proceeds will go towards our eco-development.

Lending Library

During 2006 / 2007 the library was a great success. Amie has decided to extend the opening times to include Tuesday am and continue with Thursday pm. When Amie goes home for the evening the library will close. Please remember to return all books to Amie.

Froebelian Approach

Many parents often inquire about the theoretical approach to understanding play and learning implemented here at Cowgate. The answer we often provide is that our practice is influenced by the work of Friederich Froebel. In this newsletter I have added a summary of his approach.

Froebel (1782 – 1852) believed that first-hand experiences were essential for children's knowledge to develop. He valued free-flow play as a way children make meaning of their lives and develop holistically, developing intuitive feelings about the universe. The role of the adult was that of a trusted person who supported the play experience and could act as a catalyst during free-flow play. He made the distinction between play and work, in that play is the part that children are involved in when they start the activity, and work is the part that adults want them to complete. He saw play as creative and belonging to the child, and valued child initiated, and child directed, activity. Froebel also believed that the garden was a crucial element in developing free-flow play, using play as an integrating mechanism to develop the child as a unified whole. This has had a great impact on centre and our garden provision.

Thank you

We would like to thank Louise (Rosalind's mummy) for the wonderful material. We hope to make something very interesting from it...your kindness is very much appreciated ☺

Warm, kind wishes