



# Newsletter

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May 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

We wish you all a lovely and restful break in readiness for the fun and activities planned for the remaining part of our Summer term.

## **Second Half Term Themes**

We attach another copy of our Long Term Planning just in case you have not already received it (new parents). We will forward the Medium Term Planning which reflects the themes but also outlines the resources that will be available to the children during each session (Children's Activities). We will continue to e-mail this to you on a weekly basis. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to Deborah. Any paper copies needed, please do let us know and these can be provided. All planning documents are displayed at Nursery if ever you need to refer to them.

Please do not forget our colour coded 'show and tell' boxes so that your children can safely store whatever they choose to bring into Nursery. We encourage all parents/children to get involved with this by bringing in something from home that corresponds with either the colour or theme of the week. This acts as a great link between Home and Nursery and the children really enjoy talking about their items during Circle Time. **Could we please ask if only ONE item can be brought in by each child, thank you.**

## **Half Term Homework**

Please take a moment to gather some news or something that your child may have achieved over half term. It is always good to hear what the children have been up to and in many cases helps us with our planning.

## **Parents/Carers Feedback**

We would be really grateful if you could spare some time to e-mail Anna with your experiences of your child/children attending our nursery so that they may be posted onto our website for future reference.

## **Nursery Contact Number**

**The Nursery Phone Number is: 07956 463128**

**If for any reason you are unable to contact the nursery, please Call Anna on 07956 659790 as back-up.**

## Nursery books

We will be leaving a box of books on a 'help yourselves' basis to take home at the end of the nursery session for parents to borrow should they wish. Please return the book when it is finished.

## Outside play and weather update

Come rain or shine, we will be using the outdoor area on a daily basis for a number of different activities with the children. Please ensure that your child has suitably named outdoor clothing. When the weather starts to become significantly warmer, please provide a sun hat (sun cream to be applied at home before nursery – we advise using an all-day sun protector).

## Woodside Animal Farm

Please note that all parents/carers are invited with their children to attend Woodside Animal Farm on Wednesday 22 July 2015. Please let Anna know if you and your child will be attending so that we can confirm numbers with Woodside Animal Farm. The cost of this trip for both child and parent will be paid from the usual nursery session's fee. Therefore, if your child does not attend on a Wednesday morning and you would like to attend, the charge will be £22.

## There will be no nursery session at St Mary's Church Hall on Wednesday 22 July 2015 as a result of this visit.

The morning will start at 9.30am (parents to arrive with their children at 9.15am for registration). Snacks will be provided for the children (as per a normal nursery session). **If you are not staying with your child, could you let us know so that we can ensure that sufficient staff are on duty.** The morning visit will end at 12 noon and nursery staff will be leaving at this time. However, the ticket for the farm includes an all day visit should you wish to stay longer with your child. If any child is attending without a parent/carer, they will need to be collected at 12 noon at the entrance of the farm.

## Nursery Photographer

ABC Photography will be visiting the Nursery to take pictures of the children on Friday, 12 June and Monday, 15 June 2015. If your child does not attend on a Friday or Monday session and you would like your child to have their photograph taken, please speak to Anna who will be co-ordinating and arranging this on both days. Alternatively, if you do not wish to have your child's photograph taken, please let Anna know.

The ABC package consists of three different poses of each child and the pricing is as follows:

Full pack three 9 x 6, six 6 x 4 and twelve 3 x 2 (keyring) £35  
or Three 9 x 6, Six 6 x 4 £30  
or Two 9 x 6, Four 6 x 4 Eight 3 x 2 (keyring) £30  
or One 9 x 6, Two 6 x 4, Four 3 x 2 £25  
or One 9 x 6 OR Two 6 x 4 £15

## Summer Holiday Club – Thursday, 23 July & Friday, 24 July 2015

The Summer Holiday Club sessions will run from **9.15am- 1pm**. A buffet lunch will be provided for the children of, for example, a selection of sandwiches, mini sausages, sausage rolls, etc, followed by yogurt and fruit. A menu will be available in due course and the charge for each session will be **£26.00** per child. Unfortunately, the charge applies to all children as funding is not in place for the extra days.

Please let Anna Know if you would like to book your child in for the Holiday Club.

**Siblings are also welcome to attend up to the age of 5 years old. (Please discuss this with Anna/Deb if you are interested.)**

### **Snack & Toy Contribution**

We would like to thank all parents who made a donation towards the snacks as well as the purchase of blackboards for our outdoor play area (January – April 2015). This really is very much appreciated.

This term (May- July 2015), we would be really grateful if a further Snack and Toy Contribution could go towards new Nursery Toys. A donation form is attached for all parents who wish to contribute £20 for the term. We are looking into purchasing more Vtech laptops, a toy farm set and a new keyboard.

Many thanks in advance.

### **Makaton – Language Programme**

The nursery staff will be showing the children basic Makaton signs throughout the sessions e.g. at snack and singing sessions. Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people communicate. We will be using basic Makaton signs as part of our inclusive practice and wanted to make you aware of this as the children may use the signs they have learnt in nursery at home.

### **Staffing update**

We are very pleased to welcome both Charlotte Darbyshire who is a trained Level 3 early years practitioner and Michelle Roberts who has experience of working in a local primary school as a Play Leader and looking to further her career in childcare. Nonetheless, Michelle has carried out an introductory course in respect of a Level 3 early years qualification.

### **Training Update**

Deborah has now completed her BA in Early Years and will be looking to carry out further studies in due course.

Anna continues to train and update her Social Work Qualification in line with her Professional Body (Health & Care Professions Council) HCPC).

Zoe continues with her Level 2 qualification and, with other members of the team, undertook full-twelve hour paediatric first aid training. We are sure that many of you will have probably heard the good news that First Aid training is to become compulsory for all those working in the field of early years by September 2016.

Appropriate safeguarding training has also been carried out by the nursery team but further training will be accessed where appropriate and as soon as dates are available.

In order to improve our practice, we have established that the position of Setting SENCO and Deputy should now be separated. With this in mind, Soni is taking over the role as Setting SENCO and will be carrying out key worker training on 19 and 26 June 2015 (two full days) to enhance her practice. Nonetheless, Soni has already completed her Early Years Level 3 qualification but will be carrying out further formal training linked to special educational needs in the near future too. Soni has taken over the role as Setting SENCO from Tanya Fisher. However, Tanya will continue to be Deputy for the setting in order to allow more time for the Leader to concentrate on other aspects of the day to day running of the nursery. However, Deborah will continue to guide both Soni and Tanya in their roles.

### **CONFERENCE**

Deborah attended an Ofsted Conference in London on Thursday, 23 April 2015. This involved a consultation run by Inspectors (HMI) with a range of settings (early years and primary schools) across the country in respect of the new Ofsted Framework to be

introduced in September 2015. There was some discussion as to whether nurseries/pre-schools should be given the same notice as primary schools (half a day's notice) and as you can imagine, there were a range of views in respect of this. However, we are already aware that Ofsted plan to inspect early years' settings the same as primary schools.

Understandably, safeguarding will come high on the list of Ofsted's overall inspection rating along with evidence of effective tracking and development tools aimed at highlighting where children are achieving and under-achieving.

Deborah also attended a training day organised by The Virtual School for Children Looked After on Thursday, 30 April 2015 entitled 'Pepples and Ripples' in respect of the Early Years' Pupil Premium Pilot. Should you wish to find out more information about this, please follow the link to:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-pupil-premium-and-funding-for-2-year-olds>

The nursery staff will be attending a one day course (dates yet to be advised) organised by the Hertfordshire Early Years Team entitled 'Steps Training' in respect of dealing with behaviour in a positive way. Nevertheless, Deborah will be attending an introductory session at a SENCO Group Cluster Meeting at Batford Children's Centre on Monday, 13 July 2015 (1-3pm).

As members of the Harpenden Advisory Board, Deborah will be attending Harpenden and Rural Children's Centre Group Away Day on Tuesday, 9 June 2015. This is a workshop involving other members with a range of expertise (eg health visitors, GPs, Children's Centre Managers, District Nurseries, early years settings) to explore the needs, priorities and strategic direction of the new children's centre group, as well as the most effective way of creating a new governance structure.

### Policy & Procedures

The Policy folder is in the process of being revised and updated. All policies will be on a disk which can be borrowed by parents/carers should you wish. The Policies and Procedures Folder is at Nursery on a daily basis. As ever, any particular policy can be emailed on request. Please contact Anna should you have any queries.

### Complaints procedure

Your child's key worker should be your first point of contact regarding any concerns you may have about your child. However, Deborah or Anna will be available to speak to should you wish.

### Inset Days

There are a total of three nursery inset days which have been scheduled throughout the year. Please note that we have tried to keep these to a minimum but are obliged under government regulations to ensure staff have sufficient time to participate in planning meetings and thus comply with the expectations of The Revised Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE, 2014).

Term dates are listed below:

<b>TERM DATES LINKED WITH LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>	
<b>Summer Term 2015</b>	
Inset day	Monday, 20 April 2015
Term begins	Tuesday, 21 April 2015
Term ends	Wednesday, 22 July 2015
May Bank Holiday	Monday, 4 May 2015
Half term	Monday, 25 May to Friday, 29 May 2015
Summer Holiday Club	Thursday, 23 July and Friday, 24 July 2015
<b>Autumn Term 2015</b>	
Inset day	Friday, 4 September 2015
Term begins	Monday, 7 September 2015

Term ends	Friday, 18 December 2015
Half term	Monday, 26 October to Friday, 30 October 2016
Christmas Holiday Club	Monday, 21 December 2015
<b>Spring Term 2016</b>	
Inset day	Monday, 4 January 2016
Term begins	Tuesday, 5 January 2016
Term ends	Friday, 1 April 2016
Half term	Monday, 15 February to Friday, 19 February 2016
Easter Holiday club	Monday, 4 April 2016
<p><b>*NB:</b> In conjunction with local primary schools, the nursery is closed on the bank holidays ie Good Friday, 25 March 2016 and Easter Monday, 28 March 2016. The nursery will re-open on Tuesday, 29 March for four days followed by the Easter Club.</p>	
<b>Summer Term 2016</b>	
Inset day	Monday, 18 April 2016
Term begins	Tuesday, 19 April 2016
Term ends	Friday, 22 July 2016
May Bank Holiday	Monday, 2 May 2016
Half term	Monday, 30 May to Friday, 3 June 2016
Summer Holiday Club	Monday, 25 July 2016

## POLITE NOTICE

Please do not put food in your child's bags as nursery staff are conscious that there may well be allergic reactions for other children who come into contact with such products. Likewise medication that may need to be taken by your child during a nursery session should be given to a practitioner so it can be left in a safe place (our kitchen cupboard) and out of reach of little hands.

Please also remember to include a complete change of clothing as there are a number of activities that are inevitably likely to be messy, all clothes to be named where possible.

## Final Note

Thank you for reading this newsletter and apologies to those parents/carers who may have already received some of this information. This duplicate information is for those parents/carers and children who are new to nursery.

*Best Wishes*

*Deborah Campbell BA Early Years (Open), Anna Gay (Msc Social Work Practitioner, Bsc (Hons) Social Care)*

*§ the Nursery Team*

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