



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our October 2009 newsletter.

It's amazing how quickly each month is passing. We have begun practising our Christmas songs so please keep reading to find out more about the dates and times of our Christmas performances!

Last month the children and staff have been focusing on Nursery rhymes and songs so I hope the children have been teaching you the new rhymes we have been learning and practising.

New Children

I am sure you have noticed lots of new faces at the Nursery, and we are pleased how everyone is settling into their new environment. I am also glad to see all the friendships that are forming at the nursery and hope that they will be friends for many years to come.



In our baby unit we would like to welcome this month Evan, Leo, Nathan, Sasha, Emily, George, Imogen, Harry, Zoe, Ava, Jessica, Georgia and Ethan. They

are settling in really well and enjoy exploring and investigating all corners of our baby room areas.

The toddler room is also growing and we would like to welcome Lily-May, Devan, Daniel, Ben and Jessica. We look forward to them being part of our nursery family and hope they will be very happy with us.

In Pre-school we would like to wish a very warm welcome to Andrea, Leo and Brook. All three children have made a wonderful addition to our preschool program.



Staff news

Due to the steady growth in our numbers throughout the nursery we are currently recruiting new members of staff to join our team. This month we welcome our bank staff team of Sophie (babies), Alex (toddlers), Claire S. (toddlers), Christina (babies) and Emmie

(babies). These girls assist us with our lunch coverage as well as vacation days for our permanent members of staff.

I would also like to wish a very warm welcome to Emma, our new Deputy Manager.

Emma has been with Positive Steps for over a year, and moves up from her position of Baby Room leader at Stokenchurch to become Deputy here at Apsley. Emma will formally start in Apsley on the 12th of October.

Some parents may also have met our new Administrator, Karen. If not feel free to stop by the office anytime from 10:00 until 1:00 just to say 'hello'.

Our fantastic chef has also settled in well within the nursery. Mary comes from a background in catering, and helps us ensure that each child remains happy, healthy and well fed.



Welcome Mary!

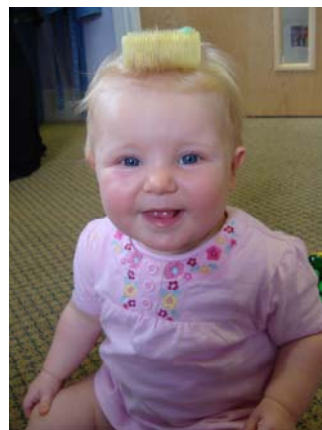
Room News

Our topic for the month of September was 'Nursery Rhymes'. Next month's topic will be 'Animals and Nature'.

Baby Room

August was a fun time in the baby rooms! We did lots of messy play with paints, shaving foam, cornflower and custard. We welcomed Tammy into our room as a new staff member, and we were very glad to have both Bekki and Bianca back with us. We have started an achievement wall to highlight the special accomplishments that we reach in our development stages and painted some beautiful autumn paintings using the fall colours.

We would like to start making 'Family Books' in the baby room so please bring in some photos of family members (with their names written on the back please) that we can laminate and put together to create a picture book.



Older Babies recreated scenes from the Very Hungry Caterpillar and the Three Little Pigs using paints and colouring. We are also learning our colours in both English and Spanish, and our numbers from 1 to 10.

Toddler Room

In toddlers we have been looking at autumn, and the changes that this season brings. We have created a collection of leaves and conkers as well as begun to explore which animals hibernate, and where. We are going to attempt an autumn walk to look for leaves changing colour. Could toddler parents please remember to bring wellies to nursery as the weather begins to change.



Mmm,...making bread!

In the next few weeks we will be starting a cooking club on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Any non-sweet recipes would be gratefully appreciated! We will also be making bread for the Harvest Festival over the next couple of weeks.

Next month's topic is 'Animals and Nature', so if your child has a pet at home or at a relative's home, could you please bring us in a picture? We are also exploring each child's family, so we are asking each child to bring in a picture that we can use in their family book. This picture will not be returned, so please use a copy if necessary.

Preschool

Preschool has had another busy, busy month. We have created an incy wincey spider display, including a painted rainspout and quite a l-a-r-g-e spider! We blew up latex gloves and tied them with elastic bands to create our own individual spiders as well. We created our own bus, complete with rotating wheels and photos in the windows for the rhymes 'The Wheels on The Bus'. We learnt new nursery rhymes and acted out many types of role play to our favourite stories, including dressing up as the characters.



Posing as a lion for our jungle wall....

We are creating a 'Down in the Jungle' display by tracing children's bodies in the shape of corresponding animals. We then cut out the animal and colour it in. Have a look at our jungle as it evolves in the pre-school room!

Preschool Uniform

We would like to remind all parents that it is compulsory for all children to have a Positive Steps bag for their personal belongings; this can be purchased for £5.00 from the nursery office. There are also legionnaire style hats available which have adjustable straps and a detachable neck protector, you can purchase the hat also from Nursery office for £4.50.

For those children who have recently moved up into the Pre-school room we would also like to remind you that our uniform is still available to purchase online at www.simplyschoolwear.co.uk.

Future Events

Our next wine and cheese parent's evening is due to take place on the 15th of October from 5:00 to 8:30 pm. Please sign-up for an interview with your child's key carer by signing the lists within the classrooms. Interviews will be booked for 10 minute intervals. Our last parent's evening was quite a success, so please do not miss your chance to book for this one!

Positive Steps Apsley will be having a Fancy Dress Day on the 30th of October. Each room will be having a small party and enjoying each other's costumes. Please ensure that your child comes with a change of clothing for the event.

Formal photos for Christmas will take place over the next few weeks. Due to an unfortunate mix-up with our photographer, the scheduled date in September has been postponed. As soon as another date has been arranged, we will let you know.

The Apsley Children's Christmas party is booked for the 15th of December (Tuesday). More details will follow shortly, but Pre-School and Older Toddlers have already started practising for the play portion of the event and we are eagerly expecting St. Nick and several other guests to attend!

Birthdays and Congratulations

September Birthdays

Many happy returns to Charlotte, Leon, Dominico and Essen!

A special birthday wish goes out to Sharon from Pre-School as well!



October Birthdays

Many happy returns to Beatrice, Lily and Finnley!
A special birthday wish goes out to Kerry in our Toddler Room!

Happy birthday from all your friends at Positive Steps!

Congratulations to Lianne (Toddler Room) who recently gave birth to a baby girl! Sylvia Alexis McAuley was born on the 12.09.09 at exactly 11pm. We wish all the best for mum and family!

Nursery Invoices

We are now sending out monthly invoices to you via email to confirm the monthly nursery fees. These are sent to you before your payment is due for your perusal. If you find that the total is incorrect please forward an email to head office as soon as possible using the email address

headoffice@positivestepsnurseries.co.uk There will be a deadline on the invoice for contacting us with regards to changing any of the payments. We will then be able to correct our paperwork before we actually call for the fees via direct debit from your bank. Payments will be taken as per the invoice unless contact is made to head office to advise us of any change. We cannot be responsible for any charges accrued due to direct debit being taken.



What a great time we had at our Teddy Bears' picnic!!

Local Support and Service Helplines

Parenting and Information Officer for Dacorum
01442 453839

Family Information Service
01438 737502 / 01923 471502
Advice and information on services for families.

Parentline Plus
0808 800 2222 - 24 hour helpline for parents
www.parentlineplus.org.uk

Holly and Team