



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our November 2008 newsletter.

We are getting closer and closer to the festive season and I hope that you are all getting prepared for the Christmas period.

We have finalised our Christmas party dates so read on to our future events so that you can put the dates in your diaries.

This month the children and staff have been focusing on the season 'Autumn', during this month they have also talked about Halloween and Diwali, the celebration of light. Each area has created some fantastic displays of the children's work so please take a look and see what the children have made.



Toddler's Halloween and Diwali display

New Children

We are regularly welcoming new families into the Nursery and the children are having fun settling into their new environment and making new friends. In our baby unit we would like to welcome this month Harrison and Grace. Harrison enjoys socialising with the other children and joining in with the fun; Grace has a creative side and enjoys the arts and craft activities that the children have the opportunity to be involved in each day. They are settling in really well and enjoy exploring and investigating their new area.



Grace and Mandy having a giggle.

In the toddler room we have welcomed Lily this month; Lily has had fun making new friends and enjoys chatting with everyone whilst getting very messy during activity times. We are pleased to see that all the children who have moved through from our Older Baby Room have settled into their new room really well and are enjoying the more structured day full of challenging activities.



Lily

In Pre-school we have welcomed this month Michal, Michal has brought lots of energy into the Pre-School area where he joins in with the other children playing active games with the balloons, balancing beams and balls.



Michal enjoying our 'Bop About'

Staff news

You will have notice a couple of new faces within our staff team. Claire and Heather have joined the team this month, you will see them around the Nursery spending time with in all areas to gain experience with all the ages.

We would like you to join us in saying Congratulations and Good Luck to Lianne who got married to James on Friday 31st October. We wish them all the best for the future and for many happy years.

Room News

Our topic this month has been 'Autumn'

Baby Room



The older babies playing parachute games

The baby room and the staff have been enjoying focusing on Autumn. We learned about Autumn by exploring some leaves, feeling there different textures and looking at the colours. We created some lovely colourful leaf prints but also used sticks and pine cones to paint our pictures. We filled one of our big trays with sticks, pine cones, leaves and soil for the children to explore. They loved the feel of the different textures and filling up the plant pots. In both areas the staff have implemented a quiet area where the children can go and relax or to simply read a book.

The children in the older room enjoying having a group time before lunch either to read a story or to sing their favourite songs.

In recent weeks we have observed that the children have been getting very hungry and tired after their busy morning before 12 o'clock, therefore we have brought our lunch time forward to 11.45am which has proved to be a complete success.



Having some mucky fun!

Toddler Room



Colourful painting with sticks

In the toddler room we have enjoyed looking at pictures of different types of trees and discussing what things we can find on each tree. We placed leaves, twigs and pine cones in our water tray and discovered which floated and which sank to the bottom. We created a variety of different pictures using the leaves and the twigs; we rolled the twigs in paint then onto the paper and then painted the leaves to make different prints. During this month we talked about the animals that you would see during this time. We focused on owls and hedgehogs and learnt that Owls come out at night time and hedgehogs have spiky backs. We made owl masks to help us pretend to be owls and we made hedgehog pictures by blowing paint through a straw to make the spikes. On the Tuesday 28th the children learnt about the Diwali festival, the celebration of light. We looked at Rangoli patterns and created our own by painting pieces of string and printing them onto to paper to make our design. When celebrating Diwali it is common to decorate your hand with a Rangoli design, we did lots of handprints and decorated them with sequins and glitter.



Painting our Rangoli designs

Pre-School Room

The children have really enjoyed spending time in their Pre-School Room. The staff have designed the room so that the children have specific learning areas, they are given the opportunity to explore and make independent choices to plan for their day.



Playing in the Pre-school role play area

This month we have discussed 'Autumn' and focused on the weather changing. We talked about what is happening outside to the trees and the ground with the leaves falling. We created a variety of 'Autumn' pictures using different items and foods, we rolled corn on the cob to see the pattern the it makes, we printed with apples, leaves and acorns and made handprint hedgehogs.

We mostly enjoyed making our scarecrow faces with lots of straw and really big noses!!



Abbie sorting out the bears

We have read lots of stories focusing on Autumn and different events that happen during this season. As a group we are learning our numbers and shapes. This month we have learnt the ABC song.

It has been a busy month for all the rooms and all the children have been busy making spiders webs, ghosts, bats and pumpkins for Halloween.

Reminders

Please can you ensure that your child has a pair of labelled slippers or indoor shoes to wear in the Toddler and Pre-School areas. With the hard flooring it is important to maintain safety and comfort for the children.



If your child is bringing items into the Nursery please can you make sure that they are clearly labelled. This is to ensure that all your child's belonging safely go home.

Please can you make sure that you check your child's drawer before you go home. On a daily basis the children are doing lots of lovely art work and pictures for their mummies and daddy's and we put them in their drawers for the end of day.

Uniform

For those children who have recently moved up into the Pre-school room we would also like to remind you that it is compulsory for the children to wear our Pre-School uniform. It provides the children with the opportunity to feel part of a group and to prepare them for going to school. You can purchase the uniform online at www.simplyicons.com/shop/postive_steps . If you have any problem please do not hesitate to ask.

Future Events and Dates

We had a very successful Parents Evening, I hope you all enjoyed meeting up with your child's Key Carer and having the opportunity to look through your child folder. We received some very positive feedback from the evening and we look forward to holding our next Parents Evening at the beginning of 2009. If you didn't get the chance to come along please do not hesitate to book in an alternative time to come and discuss your child's progress with your child's Key Carer.

Tuesday 2nd December is a very important date for your diaries. In the morning from 9.30am to 11.30 am we will be holding our baby Christmas party. There will festive tea and cakes available with an hour music entertainment from Jo-Jingles.



Birthdays

Happy birthday to Theo Clarke who will be 2 on 16th November.

Happy Birthday to Joshua Kingham who will be 2 on 30th November.

Also happy Birthday to Grace Brooks who will be 1 on the 17th November.

Happy Birthday from all your friends at Positive Steps.



Pre-school enjoying the snow

We hope you have enjoyed reading our monthly newsletter.