



NEWSLETTER

January 2009

Happy New Year Everyone

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and are all set for 2009. Although you are all probably fed-up with Christmas, we would like to share some of the Christmas activities we got up to at Nursery.

Baby and Toddler Christmas Party

We arrived at Longburrow Hall with anticipation of what was about to happen. Our Christmas hats went on and we sat together in a big circle with our mummies and daddies.

Tiny Mites began and all the children who knew the songs began to dance and do actions showing the other children and all the grownups what to do. Our favourite song was driving our cars with the steering wheels and the Christmas songs with shakers and bells.

Our special visitor arrived ringing his bell and everyone was pleased to see Father Christmas with his big sack of toys. As Jill read out the names on the presents some children came running up while others need some help from their mummies and daddies. We open our presents while enjoying a buffet tea with lots of treats.

We all had a really fun time at the party and enjoyed seeing all our friends and parents.

Whoops-a-Daisy Angel



What a performance!

I am sure you will agree that this year's Christmas production was fantastic. They all acted and sung their little hearts out and we are all so proud. Special thanks must go to Whoops-a-Daisy herself, Emma, who did a great job leading all the children and saying her lines.

All the children enjoyed the visit from Father Christmas who brought some great presents.

It was lovely to welcome back some of our old friends from After School Club as they came and joined in the party.

Uncle Wiggy was very entertaining and it was amazing to see so many children sat together completely engrossed with what he was doing.

Roll on next year!

Baby Room

Throughout December all the babies have been very busy making their Christmas cards, calendars and presents we hope you all liked them. We all enjoyed making lots of mess with the plaster of paris creating our fantastic handprints for Christmas presents.



Our calendars turned out very well with handprints for a Christmas tree and a bright yellow star on the top. It was so lovely to do lots of painting for our calendars and cards; some of us managed to get completely covered.



Most of the babies did extra handprints and these went together to make a big Christmas tree to go on the display board. There was also an advert calendar there where we counted down the days to Christmas Eve.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our festive month of singing and dancing to Christmas music.

Emma and Emily

Older baby Room

Older Babies have had lots of fun getting ready for Christmas. We have enjoyed painting and sticking our Father Christmas displays and making stockings to hang on the fire place.



Every morning we enjoyed coming in and dancing and singing to our snowman wreath which was hung on the door throughout December.

We put on some Christmas music to listen to while we made our peppermint creams for our mummies and daddies (we hope you liked them) as well as our Christmas cards and decorations.

We enjoyed meeting up with the bigger children just before Christmas break for our Christmas dinner banquet which Sharon prepared for us. We pulled our crackers and wore our Christmas hats.



We would like to welcome Lucy and Emile to Older Baby room and although they will be missed by the Little Babies, we are sure they will have lots of fun with us.

Nicole and Yvonne

Toddlers



In Toddlers this month we have enjoyed colouring, sticking, glittering and cutting all different types of Christmas bits and bobs. We have made glittery Christmas hats for the Christmas party, 4 season calendars and bauble Christmas cards. We have had lots of fun making our Christmassy display boards and taking pictures of all the children for our photo frames.



On our last week at Nursery we enjoyed singing Christmas songs and getting ready for Christmas. On the last Tuesday we came together and had a lovely Christmas dinner in pre-school.

Sam, Claudia and Steff

Pre-School

In Pre-school during December we have been very busy. We made a big display about the story of Baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph and learnt about the Christmas story.

We made decorated little presents to put under our other display of a Christmas tree, which we decorated using our hands. We made snowflakes by cutting out different shapes in paper then made them sparkle with glitter. We decorated snowmen with different coloured shapes of card. We also coloured in Christmas pictures then made them 3D so that they could be hung on the Christmas tree.



Most of you are aware of our self registration board. Please could you join us in encouraging your child to find their name at the beginning of their session. We have also started asking the children to take their name down when they go home, thus showing that they are no longer here. This will take some time to get used to but I am confident the children will get there with support from parents and staff alike.

We have created some new toys in Pre-School over the Christmas break. We have taken some empty drinks bottles and filled them with a variety of things including sand, glitter and pasta. We are then using our scales to weigh them and see which is the heaviest and also to see if we can make the scales balance.



We have also started our 'Letter of the week' again back at A. If your child would like to contribute anything to the 'Letter of the Week' area, this is fine and all we ask is that the item is clearly labelled and that you inform a member of the Pre-School team that it has come in.

Jen, Heather and Shakila

Forthcoming topics

Due to the changes in the new framework that came out in September 2008, our monthly plans are becoming more child orientated rather than adult initiated and the children becoming more involved in ideas. If you have any suggestions about topics your child is talking about at home please place them in the suggestions box in the foyer.



During January we will be learning about winter and lots of different types of weather we see at this time of year. This will run alongside any interests the children have.

Also, if you look at the planning sheets in the rooms, you will see there are some gaps; this is not us running out of ideas, but allowing space for the children to do their own planning and decide what they want to do later in the month. These spaces can also be filled by parents, if your child has expressed something they would like to do which could take place at Nursery, please let us know.

Forthcoming dates

Look out for information coming about trips that will be happening during February. If you have any suggestions for places to visit in the local area, please speak to a member of staff.

Reminders

Labelling

Please can you remember to label all items of clothing that come in to Nursery. We have had a couple of cases of items being taken home by other children. Luckily these clothes have come back, however it is very difficult to identify the owner if there is no name on it.

This is especially important with coats, shoes and wellies and as lot of the children have the same shoes and it is easy to pick up the wrong ones. If you discover you have taken the wrong shoes by mistake, please call and inform us as soon as you realise as another parent and staff may be looking for them.

I would like to remind you that Positive Steps cannot take responsibility for anything brought into Nursery which is not clearly labelled.

Observations

We have produced a box for anything you observe your child doing at home. So many things happen which are milestones in your child's development (first steps, first word, writing their name, etc) and it would be great to find out when these happen. We have produced a form for these to go on and they are available in the foyer. Alternatively, they can go on any piece of paper but please ensure you write your child's full name on the observation. Please write down anything that we can add into your child's development record and post them in the box provided in the foyer.

Door Code

It has come to our attention that parents are divulging the door code when other adults are collecting their child. I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping the door code confidential to parents only. It should not be given to any other adults, siblings or your child.

If someone else is collecting your child, please inform us at Nursery and ask them to use the buzzer. They will be greeted by a member of staff and asked for your child's password before they can gain entry. If we have not heard from

you, you will receive a telephone call confirm who is collecting your child before they are allowed to leave.

I am sure you can understand the importance of not having strangers wandering around a building which cares for other people's children.

Telephone Number

If you need to contact us via telephone during the day, please can you ensure you call the direct line which is 01494 484737. Some parent's have been calling Head Office and although this telephone is downloaded regularly, it is not manned all day.

We hope you are all looking forward to the New Year and as always if you have any suggestions on how we could improve the newsletter or any other area of care we offer, please do not hesitate to speak to someone.

Kind Regards,

Jill and the Stokenchurch Team.

Last but not least . . .

We would like to wish the following children a very happy birthday, as they will be celebrating in January:

Vera

Aaron

Kassia



Happy Birthday