



# NEWSLETTER

June 2008

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the June Newsletter. Everyone has had a great month during May and have been having lots of wet play as our topic has been under the sea. We have seen some lovely under the sea displays and activities going on throughout the Nursery.

Before we tell you about the different things the children have been participating in, there a few other things to tell you about.

## Nursery Changes

You should have all received a letter regarding changes at Positive Steps.

Heidi has now moved to her new site in Apsley, Hemel Hempstead and is settling in very well and 'finding her feet' It was very sad to say goodbye to her but I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future. I am sure she will be popping back to see us from time to time.



Following this, Jill has taken up her role as Manager and Jen started as Deputy Manager.

If you did not receive a letter from Michelle Richardson explaining the changes please speak to Jill or Jen.

We are very pleased to welcome Emma to the Little Toddler Room. Emma joins us from a Nursery in Bristol and is enjoying working alongside Nicole and getting to know all the Little Toddlers. Please join us in making her feel welcome.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your patience while the building work has been taking place at Stokenchurch. It is all nearly finished now and the disruption should be minimal. We feel the changes have made the Nursery very bright and welcoming and hope you agree.

## Nursery Bags and **New** Nursery Hats

We still have Nursery bags available to purchase. As mentioned in previous Newsletters, these are compulsory for all children and these are on sale now for £5. They are a rucksack so are especially good.

We have also got some New Nursery Hats. The summer sunshine is still coming and going and the children are strongly encouraged to wear a Sun Hat. We know it can sometimes be hard getting a hat that your child will wear so we have introduced Nursery Hats so that everyone can be wearing the same. They come with a legionnaires style back and are adjustable as well. Please purchase one from a member of staff so that your child can continue to go in the garden when it is sunny. They are priced at £6

## Post box

Here at Positive Steps we are always trying to offer a little extra help with things that can be difficult to accomplish.

Therefore, we have installed a Post Box outside Toddler and Pre-School Room. This box is for parents to put their personal post in and our administrator will post it.

Please only put in fully stamped and addressed letters – unfortunately at this time we are unable to take parcels 😊

We hope this is a little extra service we can offer to give you some additional help in your already busy lives.

## Door Entry

We would like to remind you not to let other parents into the Nursery or to divulge the entry code. Keeping our children safe is our main priority, as we are sure it is yours.

## Forthcoming topics

During June the children will be learning and talking about food. Where food comes from and trying and tasting new flavours.

## Forthcoming dates

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Father's Day.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July will be our Annual Sports Day and Family BBQ. More details to follow.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Parent's Evening.

## Baby Room

We have had a great time in Baby Room this month. The children have had lots of new friends to play with and we would like to say a great big 'Hello and Welcome' to Emile, Jacob, Vera, Marlene and Ben. They are all quite small babies but lucky we have some 'old pros' (Max, Archie and Emma) that have been helping us look after them. In particular we are grateful for the beautiful music being played on the instruments when they are trying to sleep 😊



We have been enjoying some painting and sticking fun with fish and other under the sea creatures, it all got very messy at times.

It has been tricky to get outside because of the rain as it has been very wet and muddy. But the few times we have made it out the babies have enjoyed it.

As your child grows, please can you let Jan or Jill know if there are additional foods that your child can eat. As you know we complete a weaning chart when your child joins and we update it regularly. If however, they try additional foods at home after we have updated our records, would you please let us know so that they can be offered them at Nursery as well.

Jill and Jan

## Little Toddlers

In Little Toddler Room this month we have been creating a new birthday board. We all enjoy a celebration and a birthday board helps us all to remember. Look out for this going up in the corridor.



We made a lovely display board for under the sea with giant sea creatures including an octopus and shark. The children used paint and glitter to make a lovely display.

During messy time this month we have played with shaving foam, ice cubes and splashed in

water. This as usually was very messy but enjoyed by all.

As mentioned in previous Newsletters the children have been participating in Morning Time. They are still really enjoying singing 'hello' to everyone and talking about different colours and shapes. Several days this month have been spent with the coloured linking teddies out and

Nicole and Emma

### Toddlers

This month in Toddler Room our topic has been under the sea. We have had lots of fun activities to do. We have been sponge painting crabs and doing some under the sea colouring. The children made some very funny Octopuses with googly eyes and funny legs. We also used collage materials on other sea creatures.



The best activity was making our yellow submarine. We painted a big box yellow and got very messy.



This month we have also had some very messy activities out including jelly play and sponge painting

Watch out next month when the children in Toddler Room will be looking at food and probably bringing home some lovely delights.

Sam, Claudia, Lisa and Donna

### Pre-School

Our topic this month was under the sea. We have made our Home Corner into an under the sea area with a mermaid and her bed, a treasure map and different ocean species hanging down. We string painted some fish, which are around the room and made a great display from Octopuses and crabs that we made using handprints.



We had fun making our treasure boxes, which were painted and then had beautiful gems, bright sequins and sparkly glitter stuck on them.

We all really enjoyed reading 'Commotion in the Ocean.' It is a story about animals that live in the sea and things they like to do.

We have introduced 'Letter of the Week'. Each week, on Monday, the letter will change and the children will be involved in learning the name, sound and shape of each letter of the alphabet, both upper and lower case. It would be fantastic to get the children involved so please feel free to bring in items to go on the 'Letter of the Week' display table.

Hopefully you have all noticed that we have moved our Parent's Information Board into the corridor by the entrance to Pre-school. This is to try and clear the entrance into Pre-School and still pass on relevant information to parents. The Pre-School daily diary will remain inside the Pre-School room.

Jen, Heather and Shakila

### After School Club

Our After School Club is getting busier every week and the children are having lots of fun. They have especially enjoyed being able to get outside and run around on the playground.



The toys and art and craft materials are being well used and the older children seem to really enjoy helping out and playing with the younger ones. There is a really good atmosphere everyday.

If you would like further information about the After School Club, please speak with Jill or call her at Nursery on 01494 484737.

### Tiny Mites

As you are probably aware, we have music and movement sessions every week for the children. We have recently changed the company we use for these activities to Tiny Mites.

Every Tuesday afternoon, Sarah comes in from Tiny Mites and does singing and action rhymes with the children, complete with props, actions and backing music.



The children really enjoy and benefit from this time and the staff have fun as well.

A few parents have enquired about the CD available, as advertised on the posters around the Nursery, I will be speaking with Sarah in the next few weeks to find out the best way to purchase these. Please look out for more details in next month's newsletter.

### Meal Times

As you are aware, everyday Sharon, our Nursery Cook comes in and makes some delicious meals for the children. As there are not many opportunities for you to see the wonderful meals

we offer the children, I thought we would include some photographs for you to see.



Spaghetti Carbonara



Fresh Fruit Salad



Spaghetti Bolognese

As always we are interested in any suggestions you may have for the newsletter and other things you would like to see in it. Please pass your ideas onto a member of the team.

Kind Regards,

Jill and the Stokenchurch Team.