

Abbeywood Tots Newsletter

May 2010

Hello to all parents, families, carers and of course children- welcome to the May issue of the Abbeywood Tots newsletter, full of news about the things your children have been doing at nursery, information for families and dates for your diary of all the exciting future events planned. We would welcome your contributions and feedback and also any ideas for events to organise.

Filton Nursery News

In this section we hope to keep you in touch with what the children have been doing and how the things they are learning link to the Early Years Foundation Stage document (EYFS) - the curriculum for under 5's.

The children at the Filton nursery have been very busy learning lots of new things recently. Here are just a few:

Baby Room - The babies have been enjoying activities that help them learn about Problem Solving, Reasoning and Number (maths) particularly posting things of different shape, size or colour into holes or boxes and exploring in their treasure baskets. They have loved watching their chicks grow, working on criteria from the Knowledge and Understanding of the World area of the EYFS (science) and have been learning to touch them very gently. Next they are looking forward to more exploration about animals and learning about hygiene with teeth cleaning and hand washing.

Toddler Room - The under 3's have been concentrating on work from the Knowledge and Understanding of the World area of the EYFS curriculum (science), especially enjoying their chicks and learning about their lifecycle and the tadpole's too. They have also become interested in transport so this will be their next topic developed from children's interests.

Pre-school Room - The 3- 5's have had fun learning about lifecycles too (Knowledge and Understanding of the World (science) with their chicks and frogspawn and are eagerly awaiting the growth of some legs on the tadpoles now. They have also discovered a love for digging recently and managed to find some exciting bugs as they dig, so their next topic will be Minibeasts.

General - Most of the children have had the opportunity to visit Ed's farm and had fun getting to know all the animals as well as returning the rapidly growing chicks to their home.

Garden - Work is due to start imminently on the garden - we are all very excited and can't wait to see the end result soon. The children are looking forward to lots of stimulating new activities to explore.

Staff changes - We would like to welcome several new members of staff to the nursery and hope that they will all be very happy in their new roles. Good luck!

Sun cream and Hats Reminder - As the weather is now hopefully set to be a little brighter and we will be spending longer outdoors, please can you be sure to send in sunhats and sun cream (clearly named) for all children so that they stay safe and don't miss out on any of the fun. Thank you.

Courses.

There is a **Positive Parenting Course** currently running for 4 weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6.30- 8.30pm at the Filton nursery and we would welcome you along to join in even if you missed the first session on May 5th. This is an informal but useful series of sessions covering all those tricky situations where young children have different ideas to yours! (Rules, boundaries, behaviour management, fussy eating and anything else you would find helpful.) Please book in at nursery or phone Sharon (Senior Teacher) on 07966080016 if you would like to join us, or just pop in on the night.

Topics

The children in all 3 nurseries have had a great time achieving EYFS development clauses for Knowledge and Understanding of the World through their Spring Topic work on Chick lifecycles, changes over time, growth, past and present and feeding routines and have developed their Personal, Social and Emotional Development skills through learning to be gentle and to care for them. Most have had the opportunity to visit the farm the chicks came from too and have now said goodbye to them as they took them back to be with their friends on the farm. The frogspawn has developed into lively tadpoles too and the children are eagerly looking out for growing legs as they wait for the frogs to appear. Planting and growing of assorted plants is also continuing. Next topics look set to be about animals, hygiene, minibeasts and transport as the children explore all the new things that are interesting them indoors and out.

Events

Sponsored Walk and Picnic.

A big **Thank you** to everyone who joined in our Sponsored walk and Teddy Bear's Picnic on 8th May to raise money for our link with Trinity children's centre in Kabowa, Uganda, where we aim to be able to sponsor three children at the Ugandan centre (£240 each per year) so that each of the nurseries can have a special link with one child there. This will give our children some very real opportunities to learn about other cultures, life styles and traditions alongside their own as we will exchange photographs and letters and the children can send their drawings and writing. It will also help our children to understand about sharing what we have by seeing the equipment we are able to send to other children and knowing that they have helped to buy this through sponsored events etc. These opportunities relate to very important parts of the EYFS curriculum and the link will help them to progress in the Communication, Language and Literacy

section by enhancing opportunities for Reading and Mark making (early writing skills) with Personal, Social and Emotional Development through the Sense of Community and Making Relationships strands and also with Knowledge and Understanding of the World through the Place and Communities strands. Thanks for your hard work raising sponsorship money - we would be really grateful if you could hand this in as soon as possible so that our Ugandan friends can have the benefit of it quickly. Thank you. We will let you know soon what the final total is. The children had a lovely time in the park afterwards and I've heard from a few teddies that they all had a great day too!

Internet Links

You will soon be able to pay your invoices online via an internet link that will be emailed to you each month just before payments are due. You will also receive an email every time there is a new newsletter available which will contain a link to take you straight to it. This will enable us to be more efficient in making sure parents are fully informed of news and events and will also keep us more environmentally friendly. There will still be a few printed copies of the newsletter available at each nursery for those who prefer a paper version. In order to ensure you receive this link regularly, please make sure you inform us of any change of email address. Thank you.

There is also a link to Trinity Children's Centre on the Abbeywood Tots website and through Facebook so you can view pictures from Uganda.

Donations Request

We would be very grateful for the donation of any outgrown or unwanted car seats please for use in our mini bus for trips etc. Thank you. We are also running low on spare clothes for use after little accidents in nursery and would appreciate the donation of any outgrown trousers and pants please. Thank you for your help.

Many thanks for your ongoing support of nursery activities.