

## 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.

### *Station Road 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 Station Road nursery have been very busy learning lots of new things recently. Here are just a few:

**Baby Room** - The babies have been doing lots of construction activities using the building blocks and mega blocks to build houses and towers, helping them learn about Problem Solving, Reasoning and Number (maths) and Knowledge and Understanding of the World (science) areas of the EYFS. They have also been getting messy using different coloured paints to create art work as part of the Creative Development curriculum. As part of an EYP course, Station Road's teacher Jenny is working with the babies to explore the outdoors for their next theme. Over the next few weeks they will be spending lots of time in the garden planting sunflower seeds which the children will be able to take home to plant in their own gardens later. They will also be going to the allotment for activity time and making nature pictures with leaves, flowers etc that they find in the garden, at home and in nursery.

**Toddler Room** - The under 3's have been concentrating on work from Knowledge and Understanding of the World (science), and Personal, Social and Emotional Development areas of the EYFS curriculum, especially enjoying their chicks and learning about their lifecycle and the tadpole's too, which has led to their next topic about animals. Toddlers will be going to the zoo on the 13th May to learn about different animals from around the world and are also going to Weston-Super-Mare on the 25th May to extend their interest and learning further. They have also been finding out about the importance of recycling with regular trips to Sainsbury's recycling centre recently.

**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. The current theme is messy play which will give

the children the opportunity to explore and extend their Creative Development and investigate different textures and materials. Soon they will be starting a variety of mini-themes together, stemming from their current interests. One theme is learning all about dinosaurs and we are planning to go to Bristol museum to look at the dinosaur exhibition on Thursday 27th May. The pre-school children will also be doing a theme about different places which will include a trip to Weston-Super-Mare on Tuesday 11th May to learn about the seaside, and they also want to find out about the jungle and under the sea.

**General** - All 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. We would also like to say a big thank you to the parents who took the chicks home overnight during the time we had them at the nursery. All age groups have also been involved in planting seeds in the garden and have been going on regular visits to our allotment.

**Garden** -We now have a new paddling pool for use in the garden during the nicer weather. The children are looking forward to lots of fun activities exploring with water soon.

**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. Please could you also ensure that all clothes and bags are clearly named, to make sure they are always returned to the correct owners. 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, from 5<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> May and we would welcome you along to join in even if you missed the first session on May 5<sup>th</sup>. 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, dinosaurs, places, the jungle, the seaside and sea creatures and the outdoor environment, 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **Easter Egg Decorating Competition.**

Our first fundraising event for Uganda was paper Easter egg decorating, which some children from each nursery entered, making a lovely assortment of colourful, beautifully decorated egg pictures for display.

**Well done** to the Station Road nursery winners who were:

Baby room - Zachary Cashmore

Toddler Room - Andrew Stockham

Pre-school room - Elleigh Pike

**Congratulations to you all and we hope you enjoy your prizes.**

### **Diary Dates:**

**Parents week** - week beginning Monday 12th July - There will be forms up for parents to book a convenient appointment to discuss your child's progress and next steps.

**Parents Information Evening** - Monday 13th September 2010. Details to follow.

### *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.**