

## 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

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

**Baby Room** - The babies have been particularly enjoying activities that help them to achieve EYFS curriculum criteria for Knowledge and Understanding of the World (science). They have loved watching their chicks grow and have been learning to touch them very gently. They have also enjoyed exploring with water, especially washing the toy cars and bikes in the garden. Next they are looking forward to more exploration in the outdoor environment.

**Toddler Room** - The under 3's have been concentrating on work from the Knowledge and Understanding of the World area of the EYFS (science), especially enjoying their chicks and learning about their lifecycle through songs - they now know that a chick takes 21 days to hatch from it's egg - what a clever bunch! They have been to visit Ed's farm, enjoyed Physical Development activities at the park and had fun with imaginative play, leading to their next theme of Pirates.

**Pre-school Room** - The 3-5 year olds have been working on maths skills through cooking and enjoyed making flapjacks recently. They are also continuing their Knowledge and Understanding of the World (science) project on Growing as the seeds they planted last month are beginning to grow and are creating great interest. The children have been enjoying imaginative play about camping too, so the next topic from their interest is Holidays. Any postcards or souvenirs you could send in from previous holidays would be lovely to share at circle time please. Thank you.

**Staff changes** - We would like to wish Jade good luck as she sets off to have her baby very soon and to welcome Ella into the toddler room (from the baby room) to replace her. We would also like to welcome Kayleigh as a new member of staff into the Baby room and hope that they will all be very happy in their new roles. Good luck!

**General** - Children are now able to visit Burnbush Children's Centre in small groups on a regular basis, to explore "Forest School" skills, learning about nature and doing outdoor activities in the

forest area there. Research shows that children who have access to good quality outdoor learning also learn better when indoors too, so this is a valuable resource.

**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 will be a **PEEPS course** coming soon for Parents to work with their child and a teacher (Sarah) at the nursery, on a structured learning programme for 4 weeks starting from Tuesday 8th June. This will be for 0-2's at first but will be available for other age groups soon. Please see Sarah for full details if you are interested.

There will also be a **Positive Parenting course**, running for 4 weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6.30- 8.30pm, starting on June 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be 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.

#### *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 holidays as the children explore about new and exciting places and about environments as they explore outdoors.

#### *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 Stockwood nursery winners who were:

Baby room - **Luke Mathias**.

Pre-school room - **Mason Savery**.

After-school club - **Megan Barwick**.

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

#### *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.**