

NEWSLETTER 6

WE RETURN TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 20 APRIL 2009

We hope you have had a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing you next week.

Here is a lot of information which brings you up to date for next Term (5).



The Barna-Bus Pre School First Birthday

We will celebrate one year since opening on 7th May 2008 by having a party on the 8th May 2009 at 2pm. All children are welcome together with their families. Put the date in your diary and we will provide more details soon.

This past year has been very busy and challenging for all the staff, committee members and, of course, the children. We are loyal to our Mission Statement:

"The Barna-Bus Pre School is open to all members of the local community providing care and education for all children from the ages of 2-5years.

By offering appropriate play and education for all we aim to include people of all ethnic groups and abilities, treating all adults and children with equal care and consideration.

We are committed to being straightforward, approachable and fair thereby building relationships with parents and carers."

We hope that you will join us in celebrating the last 12 months and be part of our aspirations for the future. The Barna-Bus Pre School is carving itself a place within the community and we need your support to spread the word to encourage more families to join us. Many of our children are moving to Primary School in September and we are ready to recruit more children and their families.



SNACK BAR

We are changing the way we have our snack. The children will now be able to access their snack using a "Snack Bar" system. This will open at 10am and close at 10.45am during each morning session. There is no longer a need for your child to bring in any food other than if they stay for lunch. Please still provide healthy food in a named box.

A piece of fruit will be provided for each child for each morning session they attend. Bread, butter and sometimes cereals will also be provided at each session. The children will be able to help prepare the snack supported by an adult.

In order to meet the cost of providing fruit we would be grateful if you would contribute 10p for each session your child attends. Ideally this could be done daily or weekly in cash. This is a separate cash contribution and should not be included in your termly invoice payment for the time being.

We feel that this new system will offer the children a more flexible arrangement for having their snack during the session and will not interrupt the flow of their learning experience. It will also offer them more opportunities for independence and social interaction in a smaller social group rather than the rigid snack time period we had adopted previously.



KEY PERSON

We have made adjustments to our Key Person system, which is a statutory requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage under which we work. The Key Person for you and your child is named on the attached sheet. A picture of this person together with other children in the same Key Person group will be on the Parents Board for your information.

Your Key Person will make herself known to you over the first few weeks of term. Please share information with them regarding your child. Your child's record of achievement known as "My Learning Journey" is the document which we share with your child and your family. Your Key Person will be asking you for input to this document. We wish to include pictures, photos, drawings, achievements away from the pre-school and just to know what you and your child do when you are not with us.

If you would like to speak to your Key Person in more depth, please arrange a suitable time with them after the end of a session. In order that this meeting can be managed in a more relaxed way a diary has been placed in the "Office" (which is the room where you normally enter the Hall). You can make a booking from 11.50am to 12.10pm and 2.50pm to 3.15pm on most days on a "first come first served basis." This will mean there will always be enough of us to look after the children whilst you and your Key Person meet together. However, if these times are not possible for you due to other commitments please speak to Pippa to arrange an alternative time.

Day to day matters can be advised to your Key Person briefly at the beginning of each session as usual.

Pippa and Hilary, as well as being Key Person for some children, will also be available at the end of most sessions to speak to should you wish.



HEALTHY EATING WORKSHOP

We are able to offer parents of children transferring to Primary School a "Healthy Eating Workshop" information session on 6th May. There are limited places on this interesting and informative session. Depending on take up we may be able to offer places to parents with younger children.

ENTRANCE TO THE HALL We will continue to use the entrance via the Office until the end of Term 5.

The frames for the new windows and door are not yet ready to install. However the builders have undertaken the necessary work during the Easter holidays to enable this installation work to take place during the break between Term 5 and Term 6.

We have all been very excited with the anticipation of having access to the Play Ground and a more appropriate access to the Hall but we have only another six weeks to wait! We will let you have more details regarding access arrangements nearer the time.



INVOICING/PAYMENT

We now have a new Invoicing and Payment system. You will receive a "Statement" which details the sessions your child will attend for the term together with the cost of that session. Any amount due will also be shown. If there are any queries on your "Statement" please put this in writing.

All fees for the term are due at the beginning of each term. Reminder letters will be sent out for outstanding amounts. Should you be experiencing problems paying fees please discuss this with Pippa at the earliest opportunity. Non-payment of fees may mean your child loses their place at the Pre School.



AFTERNOON SESSIONS (FRIDAY) - "Busy Barna-Bees"

Children who are leaving Pre School to attend Primary School in September are offered an extra afternoon session on Fridays until the end of Term 6. We are offering additional activities for our rising 5s and feel that this extra session will benefit your child at this stage in their learning and development. This session can be included in your Free Entitlement if you have not already used your total hours of 12.5hrs per week (this will need to be agreed with Pippa by Week 1 of Term 5) or will be an additional cost of £7.50 per session payable in advance.

This session will continue to be available to all children from 2 to 4 years and is on a "first come first served" basis.

CONSENT FORMS/UP TO DATE INFO CHECK

If you still have "Outing" and "Specialist Teaching Support" consent forms to complete please could you return these as soon as possible. Copies of these forms are available on request.

Please remember to let us have details of changes to your contact details, emergency contact details or change of circumstances. Thank you.



Free Entitlement

Changes to your child's free entitlement claim for Term 5 and 6 should be discussed and agreed with Pippa no later than 27th April 2009.

For your information eligibility for Free Entitlement hours are as follows:

<i>If your child is born between:</i>	<i>They are eligible for a free place from:</i>
<i>1 April and 31 August</i>	<i>1 September following their third birthday</i>
<i>1 September and 31 December</i>	<i>1 January following their third birthday</i>
<i>1 January and 31 March</i>	<i>1 April following their third birthday</i>

Eligibility is up to Statutory School Age.

For more information go to

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Preschooldevelopmentandlearning/NurseriesPlaygroupsReceptionClasses/DG_10016103

EXTRA SESSIONS

Extra sessions are available for all afternoons Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.



LUNCH CLUB

From the beginning of Term 5 we are starting Lunch Club which runs on from the morning session Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 12 noon to 1.05 pm at a cost of £2.50. This does not apply to children who are staying for the afternoon session. Children will need to bring a healthy lunch box which is named including lids and drink bottles.

They will have time to engage in their chosen activities and socialise at Lunch time with their peers.

Please book your place in advance with Pippa. Once again this will be on a first come first served basis. If you make a regular booking and you have not used up your full Free Entitlement you may be able to add this on to your Entitlement. You will need to advise Pippa by the end of Week 1 Term 5 if you wish to do this.



SUN SCREEN

Hopefully, we will see the sun soon! The issue of Sun Screen is an important one and the sun can be very harmful to children's young skin. We are very concerned that we do not put your children at risk when they are exposed to the sun. The ideal situation is for each child to arrive with sun screen already applied and to have a named sunscreen bottle kept at school so that this can be reapplied as necessary. However, if your child wishes to go outside, which we hope they will during the session, and they are not protected by Sun Screen which you have supplied we will apply a standard high protection sun block before they go out. If you do **NOT** wish us to do this please let us know in writing. We will be sending out a standard form for you to complete in this instance at the beginning of term.

Don't forget Sun Hats - we have a few "Barna-Bus" red sun hats from last year available on request.

TERM DATES

Term 5 - Monday 20 April 2009 to Friday 22 May 2009

Term 6 - Monday 1 June 2009 to Wednesday 22 July 2009



NAPPIES

We have changed nappies when required during a session plus changing all nappies after Snack Time. The introduction of the Snack Bar system has led us to review the policy of changing all children with nappies at this time. It is more appropriate for the Key Person to change individual children in accordance with your child's needs.

It is helpful if children arrive in a clean nappy at the beginning of the session and are therefore comfortable to begin their chosen activities. If you feel that the revised arrangements are not appropriate for your child please discuss this with Pippa or Hilary. A written policy on this matter is currently being drawn up for consultation with parents/carers/staff/committee.

EASTER COMPETITION

We had a very exciting time on the last day of Term 4.

Well done to everyone who entered the Easter Egg decorating competition. We have a special visitor to judge the entries. The Bishop of Buckinghamshire called in to see us during his informal visit to the St Barnabas community.

Well done to Dolores, Sean and Hannah in the Over 3's category and to Harry, Ellie and Bethany in the Under 3's.

Hilary brought in her two rabbits April and Mango Tango. The children were very enthusiastic to see our unusual visitors. They fed the rabbits carrots and lettuce and stroked their silky soft fur. A definite hit with everyone we hope they will visit us again soon.

Easter Bonnets

We were treated to a wonderful display of Easter Bonnets. The children proudly displayed their beautiful head gear throughout the day. The designs worn by Oliver, Reece and Ruby were particularly noticed by the Bishop.

The rabbits, bonnets and children all appeared in a photoshoot. The pictures will be on display in the Hall for you to see.

This was a very enjoyable day for all of us at The Barna-Bus Pre School. Thank you parents and carers for all your contributions.

This newsletter is somewhat lengthy and apologies for bombarding you with so much but I hope you find this method of communication helpful - your feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

All the above is important but now for the information which all practitioners and children really enjoy



WHAT WE ARE DOING IN TERM FIVE

As the leaves on the trees grow hour by hour and the blossom provides a warm glow we thought we would provide lots of opportunities for the children to look at "Growing". We will be using books, pictures, planting, digging, tape measures, cameras, music, one another, the outside and inside environment and anything we can find to take a close look at what it means "to grow". If you have anything you can contribute be it about what you and your child have been doing or what you or your child are interested in or have noticed please let us know. Bring in photographs, examples of growing things, books, your growing baby! We would love you to be involved both at home and at school. (See attached call for help). We will have displays about what we are doing around the hall for you to see as the term progresses. Further information will be on the Parents Board.

Finally, as part of our desire to be more accessible to our current and future families we are developing a Website with the help of Hilary's husband Mark. We hope to go live during this term. Is there anything you would like to see included on the website? Please let us know.