



NEWSLETTER 11

End of Term - 23rd July - Sponsored Toddle Around Dunorlan Lake

As previously advised we are planning to have our last day of term raising money, enjoying time together with parents, carers and children and celebrating our oldest children who are moving on to Primary School.

Amanda Maitland, Ellie and Cameron's mum, is organising the sponsored side of the day and has already sent out details. Please let us know if you have not received anything regarding this.

Pre School Uniform

In the last Newsletter (10) a proposal was made for a simple uniform for the children. This matter was discussed and agreed at the recent Committee Meeting to take effect from September 2010.. It is proposed that staff will also wear similar uniform. Attached to this Newsletter is an order form together with an information and comments sheet. We welcome your comments and ask that these be put in writing or made verbally to Pippa no later than 9th July.

The Committee agreed that having a uniform would raise the profile and give the children and staff ownership and pride in our community Pre School.

Committee Meetings

We are very keen to increase the number of parents on our Committee. We are very grateful to those parents who have already joined us and to those who have expressed an interest to join us.

Forthcoming dates for meetings are to be held at 3.45pm at Little Forest Children's Centre on:

Tuesday 20th July 2010

Tuesday 21st September 2010

Tuesday 12th October 2010 - Annual General Meeting and Committee Meeting

Becoming a Committee Member is a serious undertaking which requires confidentiality, commitment and requires a willingness to acquire knowledge and experience to help run an Early Years setting. If you are willing to commit you will find it both interesting and challenging and at the same time you will be making a huge contribution to the provision of much needed Pre School education within our community.

Please speak to Pippa if you require further details.

Communication/Staff and Parent Liaison

We are a small team of staff who are dedicated to your child's learning, development and wellbeing. You can be assured that at all times we have your child's best interest at heart.

We endeavour to communicate with you effectively and with one another.

If you have a message, a question or query at the beginning of the day please consider putting it in writing (Message notes are available next to the Register – pop it in the box marked "MESSAGES") OR in an email OR text to Pippa – email pippa.anderson@btinternet.com or 07766 577048.

If it is a more detailed or formal query or message you wish to relay and you would like to speak one on one to a member of staff, if possible, please arrange to speak to them at times other than the beginning or end of the day when our attention is on the children starting and ending their day.

Pippa will be available from 8.45am to 10am on Friday mornings as a "Drop In" in the office so you can speak in confidence with effect from 9th July.

Newsletters will be shorter and on a fortnightly basis with a focus on Learning and Development. Each Newsletter will ideally be sent by email rather than in paper form and will be posted on the Website. Please ensure you have supplied your email address to Pippa so that this can be actioned. (Form attached). If you do not have email then please let Pippa know so that a paper copy can be prepared.

All of our forms of communication need effective systems and we are looking closely at how we can improve all of our systems. If you have any suggestions or ideas put it in an email, text or letter or see Pippa on Friday mornings!

Website – www.barna-bus.co.uk

We have a much coveted Website which has been designed at very low cost to ourselves. We recognise that it is essential to keep this up to date. With additional support from parents and carers on our Committee as detailed above this area of communication can continue to be an effective tool to communicate with parents, prospective parents and the wider community. Please do continue to use the site for updated information.

FEES INCREASE - SEPTEMBER 2010

Please may I remind all parents that our fees will be increasing to £11.40 per session plus .25p towards Snack for the morning session. Lunch Club will be increasing to £3.40. Additional attendance will be £3.40 per hour. These increases are essential to the sustainability of the Pre School and reflect more accurately current rates in the Tunbridge Wells area.

Free Entitlement Funding

Children who are eligible for Free Entitlement Funding are entitled to 15 hours per week with effect from 1 September 2010.

Attendance

If you wish to change your child's attendance please do so using the "CHANGES TO YOUR CHILDS DETAILS OR ATTENDANCE" form available at the Welcome Centre and hand to Pippa.

Learning and Development

Our outside area is the place to be for most children, despite the variations in weather.

They have been busy planting (and digging up) a variety of flowers, vegetables and herbs over the last two weeks. We are eagerly awaiting the apples on the apple tree. Snails, beetles, woodlice, spiders and worms are a great source of inspiration and excitement as are the seagulls and cats that wander above and around our outside area. These activities are extending their knowledge and understanding of the world and feeding their enquiring minds.

Inside the children have enjoyed selecting the music and singing which is on offer at the end of most sessions. The format follows last terms "Musical Bumps" and aims to increase attention and listening skills, speech and language and creative development.