

June 2011 Newsletter

Pre-school news

So here we are all going down the hill to school, and so far, so good. The children seem to have settled down well and are enjoying the new routines, as are the teachers....

There have been lots of different and some new experiences for the children, trips to the library and the cake shop to buy mid morning snacks have gone down well, and the walk in the woods was a real success, as you can see from the photos below.

Thanks to everyone for being so helpful and understanding at this time of change, and to the now regular Monday parent helpers.

Fiona, Karen, Sophie and Sharon are all doing a sterling job at keeping the children entertained, with a more limited range of resources, whilst we are in our temporary home. You will see a request later on for garden toy ideas.

Lots has happened since the last newsletter, firstly the very successfully and sunny Easter Egg hunt, kindly arranged by Ali and Bev, so thanks to them, as the children all thoroughly enjoyed the hunt around the Farr's beautiful garden.

And, the Hairy Legs BBQ - thanks to Emma H, Fiona, Anna, Vicky, Catherine W, Karen and Nicky Faroppa who helped on the day. We raised £500 and in addition should receive £350 matched funding from Vodafone, courtesy of Liz Cox. Furthermore the Hairy Legs organisers have told us that they hope to match the amount raised with a donation.

Lastly this is the term we sadly say goodbye to Fiona and wish her well at her new and exciting post at The Oratory, you will see a lovely note and invitation from her later on in the newsletter, so read on.....



Fiona says....

Ten good years.....

I joined pre-school ten year's ago in September, when my own children were ten months, two and four. When I look at my children now ten, twelve and fourteen and see their complete transformation it makes me realise how much has happened in my life and how wonderfully constant pre-school has been.

Cheerful children, staff who have become good friends and kind and helpful parents. I have laughed a lot, not cried often - once I did collapse in a heap of tears during an Ofsted visit! I have learnt a lot from many different sources especially the West Berkshire early years team.

A large part of me is very sad not to be with you all in the new building, but I know that Karen, with the support of Sophie and Sharon and Catherine and the committee will do a wonderful job - and the building may well stay clean for a little longer.

I also want to thank the pre-school, and Karen, in particular for supporting me through my BA, something I never thought I would do. I am having a celebratory bash at the Sailing Club, drinks, buffet and most importantly a disco, to which you are all warmly invited. 25th June 2011, from 8.00, swimming at 7.00 in the river. Please let me know if you can come.

Thank you and nearly Good Bye!

But before I go, below are some important dates for your diary regarding pre-school, please note that some are only for parents and carers of children starting primary school in September 2011.

END OF TERM - CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that the last day of term will now be **Thursday 21st July 2011**, when we will have a fun morning for all children and their parents/carers, we will also say good-bye to those that are leaving.

The morning will take place in the Rectory Gardens, next to the Belleme rooms from 10 to 12, or in Goring Village Hall if it rains. So there will be no lunch time on this day, and no session on Friday 22nd July - the staff need to move all the equipment out of the Belleme rooms.

PARENT MEETINGS - Monday 11th July 2011 7.30pm

Meetings for parents with their child's key worker. - Especially important if your child is leaving to go to primary school. If you are unable to make this date please talk to your key worker about seeing her after a session,

These meetings will be held in - venue to be confirmed.

DATES FOR LEAVERS ONLY

You will be receiving an invitation from Streatley primary school for your child to formally visit on (these dates are provisional and could change, as could the times)

- **Thursday 28th June** at 1.15 to 3.15 with parents invited to a briefing at 2.45pm in the primary school
- **Thursday 7th July** children and parents are invited to attend achievers assembly
- **Thursday 14th July** children are invited from 9am to 1pm.

Additional informal visits with Karen are on:

- *10th and 17th June* from 9 to 10, when some parents will be needed to walk back with the children to the Belleme rooms. If your child does not attend on these days you will need to pick your child up at 10 am.
- *Tuesday 21 June* all those children transferring to the primary school in September should meet Karen at the school at 2.40pm as they are invited to join Miss Burt for story time. Collect at 3.10pm.

Copies of these dates are also available in pre-school.

Thanks

Fiona

Building work is finally underway

We are delighted to announce that work has now commenced at the Pre-school site as most of you have probably seen and the agreed completion date for handover of the new building is 15th August 2011.

We do have a wish list of items that the school will require, currently a Washer dryer, Computer and printer, so please keep an ear to the ground and if you hear of anyone renewing theirs, and then put in a good word for us, as a possible new home for the old.

Before the new pre school opens we will be looking for volunteers to help sort out and clean up all the toys and equipment, but will let you know about that a bit nearer the time.



We will also keep you informed as work progresses, but if you have any queries in the meantime please feel free to contact Catherine Dickinson (New Building Team) (01491 874409) or Catherine Wedgbury (Chair) (01491 873907)

Other News

Does anybody have any outdoor toys they could lend the preschool, for use in the garden behind the Belleme Rooms? If so, please let Fiona or Karen know, as outdoor toys are currently in short supply.

Likewise any large cardboard boxes for the children to make dens out of would be great too.

Lastly Catherine Wedgbury has a fan heater in her garage that was lent to the Pre School when it was very cold earlier this year, if that was yours and you would like it back please let Catherine know.

Legoland Windsor special offer

Legoland have announced a Pre-School annual pass, it offers excellent value for money, as for £45, it allows any adult and one preschool child unlimited access Monday to Friday during term time for 12 months, plus discounts at the shops and restaurants whilst you are there.

It is an online offer only and more details can be found at:
www.legoland.co.uk/preschoolpass

Dates for your diary

- **Summer term** **Monday 6th June 2011**
- **Parents evening** **Monday 11th July 2011**

- **Farewell party for leavers** **Thursday 21st July 2011**
- **Last day of summer term** **Thursday 21st July 2011**
- **Autumn term starts** **Wednesday 7th Sept 2011**

And at last, the Winstanley's Banana and Honey Tea bread!

This tea bread was bought up to Pre-school last year as a snack and was a real hit with the staff and the children.....need I say more.

225g (8oz) self-raising flour
¼ level teaspoon grated nutmeg
100g (4oz) butter
225g (8oz) bananas
100g (4oz) caster sugar
Grated rind of 1 lemon
2 large eggs
6 tablespoons thick pale honey

Pre heat the oven to 160C/Fan140/Gas 3. Lightly grease a 900g (2lb) loaf tin then line the base with baking parchment.

Put flour and nutmeg into a large bowl and rub in the butter using your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Peel and mash the bananas and stir into the flour mixture, add the sugar, lemon rind, eggs and honey. Beat well until evenly mixed, then turn into the prepared tin and level the surface.

Bake in the pre heated oven for about an hour and a quarter or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cover the tea bread loosely with foil during the end of cooking if it is browning too much.

Leave to cool in the tin for a few minutes then turn out and peel off the parchment and finish cooling on a wire rack.