

# FUNTIME NEWS

## February '10

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Registered Charity No. 1097665

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and thank goodness for some warmer weather! Thank you for all your cooperation during the snow closure at the beginning of the term. We have been looking at the way we contact parents and carers in such circumstances so we'll be asking you for updated contact information in the near future.

Please take the time to have a look at our fantastic new garden which was designed and completed by Hambrooks Landscapes. However, it is still a work in progress and we will be adding to it. The children are able to use this facility on a regular basis, weather permitting, and get such a lot from it. It is nice for you all to see the end result from the support you give our fund raising team.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Joanne Walsh  
Committee Chair

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## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The last day of the spring term is now **WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH** and not Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April, as we published in the last newsletter. The Church wants to use the hall on that Thursday for their Easter celebrations.

The Easter holiday is therefore: **Thursday 1st April to Friday 16th April**, i.e. two weeks and two days. Pre-school re-opens on Monday 19th April.

The last day of the summer term has been changed to **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** to make up for having to close on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

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FUNTIME WEBSITE:  
[www.funtimepreschool.org](http://www.funtimepreschool.org)

## SESSION NEWS

Please could all parents ensure that staff are notified in advance if another person will be collecting your child who does not usually do so. Their full name and contact details will be recorded and you are welcome to use a password system. Please speak to Angie if you need to do this.

Thank you.

## LATE COLLECTION POLICY

Please can we remind parents of our late collection policy. We are proud that, to date, we have not had to charge, but we will need to charge £5 for every 5 minutes a parent is late collecting their child once the session has ended. The staff need time after the session to finish clearing and tidying up and therefore late collections encroach on this, particularly as we book the hall for a certain period during the day. Furthermore, two members of staff have to stay behind until the child is picked up.

## BREAKFAST CLUB

Please be aware that children will not be served breakfast after 8.45am as it disrupts the morning session.

## Childcare Voucher Scheme

We will soon be able to accept 'Accor' childcare vouchers as payment for pre-school sessions! We will inform you when this system starts. If you would like to pay with vouchers from a different company please speak with Marisa Reynolds (Administrator). Thanks.

*If you have any comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to speak with any member of the staff or committee or put a note in the red fees box at any time. A list of staff members and current committee members is on the second page of this newsletter*

## STAFF MEMBERS

Angie O'Driscoll	- Supervisor
Frances Magnus	- Senior Early Years Practitioner
Karen Halbauer	- Senior Early Years Practitioner
Rebecca Bate	- Early Years Practitioner
Chloe Channon	- Early Years Practitioner
Caroline Moseley	- Early Years Practitioner
Katherine Hanson	- Early Years Practitioner
Marisa Reynolds	- Administrator

## PRE-SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Chair & Company Director:	- Joanne Walsh
Vice Chair:	- Mel Leith
Treasurer & Company Director:	- Kate Johns
Vice Treasurer:	- Sally Moulding
Company Secretary and Director:	- Juliet Cheriton-Gerard
Health & Safety Officer	- Vacant
Communications Secretary	- Jennifer Rainbird

## FUNDRAISING TEAM

Sarah Wright
Sharon Lester
Nicola Allan

## **Staff Training**

*Karen has attended several Special Education Needs Courses recently, including speech and language development and loss and bereavement. Katherine has been attending a Special Education Needs Course concerning English as a Second Language. All of this further experience will be beneficial for Funtime.*

## Health And Safety Officer

We do need to fill this committee role. At the moment Angie is carrying out the necessary checks, but please do step forward if you are interested, or know someone who has the ideal skills or experience. Marisa will be putting a note in parents' pigeon holes detailing what the responsibilities are.

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## **A Huge Thank You, Natalie!**

Natalie Cross joined the Committee as a fundraising member in June 2009 but sadly has had to resign due to personal reasons.

The committee and staff would like to take this opportunity to extend their immense gratitude to Natalie for all her hard work. She was incredibly busy with fundraising schemes before Christmas but seemed to juggle this, plus family and Christmas preparations, with amazing enthusiasm, energy, vivacity and good humour. Obviously, Natalie's resignation has left a massive gap and the fundraising team would be delighted to hear from any family members who would like to join them.

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## **ACCREDITATION "AIMING FOR QUALITY"**

We currently hold Level 1 of the Pre-School Learning Alliance's "Aiming for Quality Scheme", which is a national programme focusing on the best possible quality of education and care for your child. An assessor will be spending the day with us on Friday 5th March to assess us for Stages 2 and 3. Stage 3 is the highest level of this scheme and is a kitemark for quality. If Funtime achieves Stage 3 it will then be recognised as a fully accredited pre-school and we can retain this status for 3 years.

Angie will also start preparing Funtime for the 'RRR Accreditation Scheme', recognised by UNICEF, which focuses on children understanding their own rights and those of other children, children taking ownership of their responsibilities and also learning to respect others.

## Teachers to Parents' Texting

This is a method of communication whereby parents and carers will receive a text message from pre-school informing them of any important issues, in particular closures due to bad weather or funerals. Marisa has volunteered to organise this and will be asking parents and carers for their current contact details.

## FACEBOOK

You can now join the Funtime Facebook page! This is a great way to keep up to date with any news concerning pre-school. We have 13 fans already! Visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Funtime Pre-School, where a gallery of smiling faces awaits you!

## Garden

Hambrooks Landscapes have finished work on the garden. The original square patio stones remain for the children to ride their pedal cars but there is now a central feature divided into four sections - two of which are filled with soil, one with sand and another with bark.

## EXPLORATION AND INVESTIGATION

Pre-school has been given £200.00 from the Hampshire County Council 'Enabling Environment Project' and we plan to purchase resources to allow the children the fun of investigating life in our garden. From live butterfly gardens to clear root viewing tubes the children will be able to view the full life cycle of animals and plants.

With the use of magnifying glasses and bug jars the children will enjoy hands on investigation. Garden tools will be used for digging and planting and just in case it rains there will be an umbrella for everyone, meaning the weather will no longer prohibit outside play!

## FUNDRAISING NEWS!

Money from fundraising has been put towards purchasing a fitted canvas cover to protect the garden's central feature from damage when not in use. In addition, Angie has also purchased threading games, colourful screens to match the trolleys containing toys and equipment and colourful new letters and numbers. Angie would also like to purchase the following:

*Spider garden net, bird table, magnets, play money and marbles.*

Alternatively, if you have any of these items at home but do not need them, they will provide immense fun and educational benefits to the children.

## Other amounts raised through fundraising:

Healthy Living Week :	£185.20
Christmas Concert:	£175.42
Christmas calendars and DVDs	£153.25
Webb Ivory:	£ 88.43

*We still have about 50 tea towels featuring faces drawn by the children and staff available to buy. These would make wonderful Mothers' Day presents! Only £5 each!*

## Articles for Sales/Ads

All pre-school parents, carers and staff can advertise items for sale. The cost is £1 for up to 4 items. Please contact Jennifer Rainbird (via pigeon hole or red fees box) if you would like to advertise. Please contact the seller directly if you wish to buy.

## Forthcoming events

The next Teddy Bears' Picnic will take place on **MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH from 11.30 - 1.00pm** and not Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, as originally planned. There will also be a garden opening ceremony!

## Cleaner

*We are still looking to recruit a cleaner to clean the hall two or three times a week. This will be a paid position and there is an advertisement in the pre-school foyer giving further details.*