

FUNTIME NEWS

May '10

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Welcome to the May newsletter and what an exciting, active time the children have been having at pre-school over the last couple of months!

CURRICULUM NEWS

During this term, one of the topics the children have been learning about is the life cycle. Angie ordered two butterfly kits (which look like mini pop up laundry baskets!) which arrived with caterpillars and food. The kits were hung up in the garden shed and brought out for the children during sessions so they could watch the caterpillars turn into chrysalides and emerge as beautiful Painted Lady butterflies! Much to the delight of the children one batch has been released and the second should be ready this week!

Another recent topic was transport by land, sea and air and the children were invited to bring in a toy relating to this theme. Rebecca said they also had enormous fun with junk modelling making trucks, cars, rockets, boats, even a robot and a crocodile, out of cereal boxes, egg boxes and other recyclable waste. Milk bottle tops made wonderful wheels! Those who had made boats were able to test out their models by placing them in water and seeing if they managed to float!

BEHAVIOUR WORKSHOP

The first parent workshop took place on Wednesday 30th March and was run by Ann Courtice from the Hampshire Portage Service.

The results from the recent survey showed that addressing behaviour was the topic parents most wanted advice with.

One of the mums who attended said the workshop was really interesting and she was able to take away lots of practical and helpful advice which she could use at home. She explained that Ann focused on reinforcing positive behaviour which involves observing your child and giving praise for example, "I like the way you are sharing with your brother", or, "I can see that you are sitting nicely at the table". If your child is

prone to throwing toys give praise when they look after them or put them away.

Ann also gave advice on how to deal with interruptions whilst having an adult conversation. She told parents at the workshop to compare a child's attention span with their age. For example, if they are 4 years old then their attention span is only 4 minutes. If you are having a conversation ensure that you give your child some attention every 4 minutes, this might take the form of, "you've been really good keeping quiet whilst mummy is talking".

Shouting can also be hard to deal with – Ann's best advice? Count to ten!

Ann handed out a couple of leaflets which are available to view on the Funtime website where you can read about giving praise, rewards and helping your child to behave the way you would like them to.

FUNTIME WEBSITE:

www.funtimepreschool.org

Congratulations to Angie who received confirmation of her Early Years Professional Status on 11th May. Angie has put a tremendous amount of work into achieving this and she says it's, "something to celebrate!"

STAFF TRAINING NEWS

Boogie Mites Music Programme

Karen and Frances have attended the first of these three sessions and both agreed this was a really fun course which will greatly benefit the children.

Karen explained that music and singing help children's speech and communication and therefore the new songs they learnt on the day will play a huge part with this area of learning.

They were also shown how children can use instruments imaginatively, for example making the sound of rain with various shakers.

Movement helps with a child's physical development, it helps their co-ordination and supports their understanding of instructions by enhancing their listening skills and mirroring actions and movements. Karen and Frances have therefore purchased a long piece of black stretchy lycra. Moving the cloth around in circles, up and down and side to side gets the children moving! The cloth has also helped to make songs more fun and the children love walking their fingers under the cloth so that they look like Incy Wincy Spider's legs!

MAKATON TRAINING

Several members of staff completed their second day of training in the use of Makaton. This is a method of signing supported by verbal communication and symbols. This will help all the children in the pre-school as an added communication skill.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Garden project

Angie is delighted to share with you that the garden will very soon have a new playhouse and shed. These purchases have been the result of many years of fundraising.

The two new buildings will be erected during the half term week and the contents from the old buildings will be cleared between Monday the 24th and Thursday 27th May. Are there any willing volunteers who can help clear them? If you have a trailer then we would love to hear from you!

Quiz Night

This was a really fun evening with five teams competing against each other. A variety of topics were covered, including movies and history but the real brain teaser proved to be deciphering which two celebrities had been joined together to make one face! Several beautiful hampers were won during the evening containing toiletries, alcohol and food and the top two teams were given a bottle of wine. The other teams didn't walk away empty handed and were given a bottle of Baby Cham for their efforts! The quiz night raised a fantastic £152.23 and this total will be matched by Lloyds Bank.

A special thank you must go out to all those who helped organise this event and helped on the night and to Neil Walsh for being such a wonderful quiz master. We certainly learnt a lot, too!

Sports Relief

The events which were run at pre-school, including the fancy dress day and sponsored bunny hops came to a total of £107.00!

Committee

Nicola Allan has sadly resigned from the Fundraising Committee due to family reasons. The staff and committee wish to express their huge gratitude to Nicola for all her hard work, in particular copying the Christmas concert dvds.

May we also take this opportunity to thank Nicola's husband who runs 'The Whiteley Forum' who has kindly added our logo to the home page. Once the logo is clicked visitors are directed to Funtime's website! For more information about events and services in Whiteley and areas nearby please visit www.whiteleyforum.net.

POLITE REMINDER

Please could parents and their carers drive slowly in and out of the car park to ensure the safety of adults and children walking to and from the hall. Thank you.

DIARY OF EVENTS

SUMMER TERM:	Monday 19th April to Thursday 22nd July
SHED AND PLAYHOUSE CLEAR OUT	Monday 24 th to Thursday 27 th May.
HALF TERM	Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June
AGM	Thursday June 10th at 8.00pm
SPORTS DAY Royal Victoria Park, Netley	Sunday 11th July 1 - 4pm
LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY	Tuesday 20th July 2.15pm - 3.00pm