

FUNTIME NEWS

November '09

Issue: 59-1109



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Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to November's newsletter. This is a really busy time for the pre-school and your children and our practitioners are already well into their preparations for the Christmas Carol Concert, Christmas Party and illustrations. So don't be surprised if you're required to sing along to 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' - the children's excitement will be at fever pitch by the time we get to the party.

A huge big thank you to our fund raisers who work so hard behind the scenes to ensure that everyone enjoys themselves at our fund raising events and also to the grandparents who so willingly gave up their time. Thank you to the Solent Hotel who kindly donated nearly all the food for the Hallow'en party, it was delicious!

Please join with me in sending best wishes to Mel Leith, Vice Chair, and her family at the safe arrival of Baby Daniel on 14th November. Many, many congratulations. Well done Mel for already enrolling Daniel for the term starting September 2012.

I hope that you all have the most wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Kind regards

Joanne Walsh

Committee Chair

PARENT/HELPER ROTA

Do you often wonder what your child does at pre-school? Well, why not volunteer to help out at a session and find out? The children love having parents in and you are guaranteed a fun time, too! The new rota is displayed in the foyer so please have a look and write your name against a suitable day and time. Younger siblings are welcome, too!

Letter from Angie O'Driscoll:

Dear children and parents,

The transition to primary school will happen sooner than you realise but we can offer your child a golden opportunity to prepare them for their next step in the world of education.

From January 2010, children who will be leaving 'Funtime' in the summer of 2010 will be able to attend a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon session, or both. These specific sessions will allow your child to build his or her confidence and independence. They will master new skills, such as changing for physical exercise and learning to open the packaging in their lunch boxes, as well as extending their listening and concentration skills. The sessions will be presented in a fun, play orientated programme but are designed to build confidence for their next step!

FULL DAY CARE

Full day care will be available on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday starting from January 2010. Marisa Reynolds has given every parent a form to complete regarding their child's session requirements for next term.

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

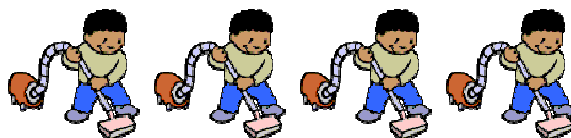
We still need someone to join our Committee as Health and Safety Officer. The description of what this role entails is as follows:

- ✓ To carry out risk assessments of the workplace environment - inside and out.
- ✓ To evaluate the likelihood of accident/injury and the outcome.
- ✓ To record the risk and continually assess.
- ✓ Take action to reduce the risk and continually review and revise assessment as necessary.
- ✓ To carry out risk assessments on windows, doors, floors, heating, lighting, food and drink, storage, the outdoor area, fire procedures, staff health & safety, procedures for entering and leaving, first aid and administration of medication and for outings.
- ✓ Ensure staff and relevant committee members are kept abreast of our procedures.
- ✓ Arrange risk assessments for relevant times (daily check lists, annual check).
- ✓ Carry out inventory to ensure insurance cover is adequate.

If you are interested in this role please speak to Angie or any member of the Committee. Thank you.

Cleaning

We are also looking to employ a cleaner to clean the toilets and hall two or three times a week. Please speak to Angie if you or someone you know would like to apply.



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
Natalie Cross
Sharon Lester
Nicola Allan

FUNTIME WEBSITE:

www.funtimepreschool.org

Accreditation - Aiming for Quality

Funtime is working towards accreditation under the Pre-school Learning Alliance's "Aiming for Quality" scheme.

This scheme ensures that our setting is offering the best possible quality of education and care for your children, effectively a "kite mark" for quality standards at pre-school. We achieved Stage 1 in December 2007 and are now in the process of completing the final 2 stages of the accreditation, which involves an assessor visiting us.

Please could you complete the questionnaires in your pigeon holes if you have not already done so, as the assessor will be using these as evidence of the quality of our setting. If you have any questions please ask any member of staff or the committee. Thank you.

Redevelopment of our Garden

Over the last couple of years pre-school has done an amazing job of fundraising, thanks to our very generous parents.

We plan to use some of this money to redevelop the garden for the children and have now received the go-ahead from the Church for us to start.

'Hambrooks Landscapes' have planned and designed an interactive and educational garden for us. The redevelopment will be a phased approach, so that we can add more things as funds allow, but Phase One is on track to begin before Christmas. We'll keep you posted on progress!

FUNDRAISING

Firstly, Funtime would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to The Solent Hotel in Whiteley for their generous donation of food at the Hallowe'en party.

The party was a huge success and pre-school raised £251.75!

The Teddy Bears' Picnic also raised a fantastic £128.13.

Angie is planning to put the money raised towards two new trolleys to store the children's toys. These trolleys will also help the children find the toys they want to play with more easily as they contain 6 trays.

She will also be replacing the table coverings.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This will take place on Tuesday 15th December from 11.15am to 12 midday and all family members are welcome to attend.

No tickets are required as this is a free event and programmes will be sold at the door. Pre-school is planning to record the concert so that parents can buy a dvd.

After the concert there will be a raffle and there will be coffee and cake.

Make sure the children don't forget to buy their own special bag of magic dust!

More information will shortly be sent out to parents by the Fundraising team.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This will be on Friday 18th December from 9.30am until 12 midday and is optional fancy dress.

Angie has booked an entertainer and food will be supplied.

Again, no tickets are required and parents are welcome to come at 11.30am to see the children receive a present from Father Christmas

This is not a fundraising event but solely a treat for all the children at pre-school.

A letter will go out to parents nearer the time confirming the party details.

