Nursery News

Buckingham Park Church of England Primary School Nursery Newsletter

Issue 1 :: Monday 20th May 2013

A Newsletter for Nursery Parents!

Welcome to the first edition of our 'Nursery News'. Our Nursery Class is very much a part of the school at Buckingham Park – and a very important part too! We also recognise that some information is very particular to our Nursery parents so we are launching this newsletter to keep you up to date with what's happening in our Nursery.

Our 'Park Life' newsletter will still be sent home to the rest of the school and some of the articles will be common to both publications. Both publications will be added to our website each week.

This is not intended to replace on-going verbal communication and, as always, the Nursery team are always available to answer any questions or concerns that you might have so please don't hesitate to come and talk to us!

Collecting your child

We are very grateful to those Nursery parents who completed one of our questionnaires at the end of last term. We appreciate all your positive responses and comments.

HOMEtime

One aspect that we want to improve is the system for collecting children at the end of the session. To this end, we have already made some changes – children are sat with their key worker at the end of session making it easier and quicker to collect your child, children have their coats and belongings ready with them at the end of the session, and we open the door 5 minutes earlier so that there is more time for you.

We now want to extend this system further so that the end of the session is as calm and purposeful as it can be. We want you to be able to collect your children safely, but also have the opportunity to see what he or she has been up to and speak to a member of staff if you wish. We think that the following changes will be very positive:

1. We will now open the door at 11.15am for the morning session and 3.15pm for the afternoon session. This gives a 15 minute period for collection which will reduce waiting time and give you the opportunity to take your time! We simply ask that all children are collected by 11.30am and 3.30pm respectively.
2. We are asking all our children to have a book bag for nursery (see overleaf)

We will, of course, continue to listen to our children and parents as we are always seeking ways of improving the nursery experience for our children and families.

Book Bags Please

We would very much like all our nursery children to have his or her own book bag. This will enable us to help you to make sure that child has everything he or she needs at the end of a session, make collection time easier, and allow us to make sure you get all our letters and newsletters.

If you would like to purchase a Buckingham Park book bag these are available from our two schoolwear partners: Bucks Schoolwear Plus in Aylesbury and Tesco Clothing Online (follow the link on our school website). Your child's bag does not need to feature the school logo – any book bag will be fine. Please make sure that your child's bag is clearly named.

We have 'key group boxes' which your child's book bag - as you drop off your child we would appreciate it if you could place the book bag into the correct box and collect it again at the end of the session before leaving.

Summer Fete Update

Thanks to those nursery parents who have already started to support our preparations for a Summer Fete on Saturday 13th July, 12 – 3pm.

There are a number of ways in which ALL parents can help us.

Advertising Boards needing a Home

Williams Estate Agents & Letting Agents in Aylesbury have kindly agreed to supply some advertising boards for our Summer Fete. If you live locally, you can help us by hosting one of these signs. If lots of people pass your home, we'd be pleased to pass on your address to Williams so that they can put one of their boards up to advertise our fete. Please let us know if you are able to help in this way.

Market Place

We are now taking bookings for stall holders at our Fete. If you know of anyone who might be interested in having a stall in our market place, please ask them to get in touch. Alternatively, you can download stallholder information and a booking form from the PTA page on our school website.

Raffle Prizes and Programme Advert

Do you have a contact with a local business or organisation? If so, could that business or organisation provide a raffle prize? Or place an advert in our Fete Programme? All the details are on our school website, on the PTA page, or just ask in the school office.

If you are interested in joining the group of parents who are organising our fete, come along to our next meeting, at school, this Friday 24th May at 2pm.

Ready for the weather… whatever the weather!

We want the children to use our indoor and outdoor areas for learning throughout the year. This is very much the way that we 'do business'.

Due to the unpredictable weather, it is important that children have coats and/or waterproofs in case it rains, as well as a hat for sunny days. Please ensure that your child has sun lotion applied before attending nursery when the weather is hot and please do not leave sun lotion in their bags.

Home School Partnership: Keeping each other up-to-date!

We value very highly our partnership with parents, and whilst we welcome daily communication between staff and parents, we have also set up a Parent Information Board in the cloakroom which has up-to-date information about what your child will be learning at nursery, any special events, and how you might be able to support your child's learning at home.

We have also recently introduced a 'Parent Input Box'. We value the knowledge and understanding you have of your child and would really appreciate it if you would share this with us so that together we can plan activities to meet your child's needs. All you need to do is jot down anything significant happening in your child's life at the moment, e.g. visits, holidays, new pet, family celebrations, anything you would like to tell us about your child and their achievements. Place your comments into the box and we can then use these to help us plan for your child's future learning and development.

People who Help Us

The children have been enjoying their learning about healthy eating this half term. After the half term holiday, we'll be thinking all about 'People who help us'.

This is a wide ranging topic with plenty of opportunity to make connections between people and places. It includes every aspect of the local community, from friends to child-minders and from shopkeepers to fire fighters. It is also ideal for discussing how we can help others – we will be thinking about our school values, 'We take care of everything, and everyone' and 'We are kind, helpful and polite'.

We will be inviting adults who fulfil helpful roles to visit the nursery so that they can bring the topic to life for children.

Your child's development and progress

A number of our children will be moving up to Reception Class in September. For the parents of those children, we will prepare a short written report which will outline your child's progress against the nursery areas of learning.

We also want to offer all parents the opportunity to have a 'parent consultation' if they would like one. After half term we will be putting up a 'sign up list' and if you would like to make an appointment to see one of us please put your name against a convenient time.

A day in the life of a Nursery child

Sometimes it can be baffling to work out how your child spends his or her day. We hope this helps!

<u>Handover Time</u> (08.30 - 09.00 / 12.30 - 13.00)

When our doors open we invite parents to bring children right into class. We're grateful for you helping out with coats, gloves, hats, letters and everything else! The children come into class, self-register by finding their coloured name and matching it with their picture. This helps children to recognise the letters in their name and helps them to identify with their key group colour. Children are also formally signed in by a member of staff and this is submitted to the office computer. We always like to know if your child is away from school so don't forget to telephone the school office on the day. If we haven't heard from you we'll give you a call. Once your children have 'self-registered' using their names, they can then catch up with their friends and get straight into activities which promote their learning.

<u>Group time</u> (09.00 - 09.15 / 13.00 - 13.15)

This is an opportunity for the children to gather in small groups led by (their key person) a member of nursery staff. It is a time to say 'Hello' and to take part in a short activity. Each day the focus is different; topic, maths, phonics, music or personal, social and emotional development.

<u>Learning in class and outside</u> (09.15 - 11.00 / 13.15 - 15.00)

Learning in Nursery happens in many different ways. Here are some of the ways in which your child will learn in class:

Working together as a class or smaller group:
Group times take place at the beginning and end of each session. At the beginning of each learning session the children will often be gathered together for a short time and one of the staff will help them to understand the learning objectives for the session. The learning will be introduced in a fun and active way which will spark the children's curiosity.

Child initiated learning:
Children are encouraged to 'choose what to learn' in Nursery. The staff have created an environment in which the children can choose from a range of activities which will promote their learning across the 7 areas of learning. Staff are always on hand to support children, and also to carefully observe and assess each child's progress.

Adult led activities:
During the learning sessions, teachers and nursery assistants will work with small groups to work on something specific – this might be a phonics activity, reading with a group, a craft, or something else. Each group has the opportunity to take part in the activity, and the activities will be adapted to meet your child's needs. These activities take place indoors and out.

<u>Snack</u>:
Children are able to visit the 'snack table' during the afternoon session where there is a choice of fresh fruit, vegetables, milk and water.

<u>Tidy-up Time</u> (11.00 - 11.15 / 15.00 - 15.15)

This is an important part of the day and teaches valuable skills, such as; showing respect for our environment, working together and learning to follow instructions.

<u>End of Session</u> (11.15 - 11.30 / 15.15 – 15.30)

At the end of each session we gather together as a class or in groups to share what has been learned and to sing a song, share a rhyme, read a story or play a game. We open the doors and let parents in to collect their children. We welcome parents right into the nursery setting to collect children, rather than delivering children to the outside door so that parents and staff can communicate about what has happened during the day, and to see what your child has enjoyed doing or is proud of.