



# Countryside Day Nursery January 2012 Newsletter

## Results from the Questionnaire issued in December's 2011 Newsletter

Thank you very much to all parents who returned their questionnaires as we really do value parental feedback. I have analysed the questionnaires during the Christmas period and I thought that you would be interested to hear the feedback.

We received 68 questionnaires back, which was a very high return rate, so thank you to all parents who returned the questionnaires as it has given us some very useful information to work towards. Some of the findings are as follows:-

"Staff are welcoming and friendly"— 68 parents thought "all of the time" which is a great improvement from last year and quite a credit to the staff team- well done to all staff.

"Child is well looked after"- again 68 parents thought all of the time.

We asked how we could communicate better to our parents and many parents stated that they enjoyed newsletters, parent days, informal sessions daily feedback, informal opportunities, open evenings, Daddy's Days.

### **The Rating of the following facilities were as follows:-**

52 parents stated that for all the facilities listed below , they rated them all as excellent.

Then I analysed the other questionnaires and for the provision of toys, 65 parents stated the provision was excellent and 3 parents said good.

For the provision of other equipment 66 parents said excellent, 2 good.

For Cleanliness, 63 parents said excellent, 5 good

For Meals, 60 said excellent, 7 good, and 1 fair

For Indoor facilities- 63 parents said excellent, 5 good,

For Outdoor facilities 68 parents said excellent

For Extra activities;- 62 parents said excellent- 6 good- 1 of these parents asked for other activities to be offered on different days.

In all areas of the questionnaire the statistics showed an increase on last year's results, of which is greatly encouraging. There was only 1 fair "tick" which was for the range of meals, which we will be addressing in the New Year.

The most positive aspects which parents felt were important were lovely, safe positive environment, excellent knowledgeable staff, excellent care and attention given to each individual child, variation of daily activities, outdoor space, friendly and professional staff and friendly, family style atmosphere and Grace's commitment to improve practice. One parent also asked her child what she likes about Nursery and the parent has written her comments which included making friends, creating pictures, marbles, bricks, and playing with Lorna, Sasha, Sarah, Robyn, Tara and Grace. Thank you for this additional note as we are always looking to hear the child's voice throughout our practice, so this additional letter was very relevant.

I have included the suggestions from all of the parents over the page.

# Ideas and suggestions for improvements following the questionnaire

Many parents stated that they felt there are no improvements needed, but just instead keep offering what we deliver on a daily basis. However, for me personally, I feel that there is always room to improve, so these are the areas where I will naturally focus my attention to continuously improve our practice.

Several suggestions which we will be looking at are as follows:-

More paintings and art work to take home.

Lights on the outside wall/ gates

Weekly notice boards, white boards for reminders for parents

Written details of what the children have eaten for tea and snack

Clearer photocopied forms

Parents to be able to request a 5 minute slot on a more regular basis, rather than waiting for the bi-monthly parent days

Invitation to view photos or video clips of the children at Nursery would be a good idea

Allowing more time when parents collect their children.

More variety of foods, ie an Indian day or some more spicy dishes

Have a session until 3-00pm

Whilst these are all the suggestions we have received, there has only been 1 of each suggestion and although we are keen to meet all of

these requirements we are conscious that we also have to accommodate all of our parents. Therefore, we will be looking at each suggestion and making developmental plans in the future to make small changes that have been suggested to ensure that everyone is happy and pleased with the provision that we are offering.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all parents for completing the questionnaire and also thank you for completing the extra section for our BEEL research which will be compiled in the New Year.



## Magic Moments

It is so lovely to be able to write the children's achievements in the monthly newsletter. Every time I do, I cannot help thinking how quickly the children are growing, they seem to change and develop quicker than ever.

However, a very well done to the following for gaining their Magic Moment certificates.

William M in Hedgehog Room has got his certificate as he is now sleeping in his own big boy bed- which is a truly brilliant achievement - well done William.

In Little Squirrels Austin is now getting himself dressed- so we are really pleased for Austin that he has achieved this fantastic milestone and very helpful for Mummy now that he has a new baby sister to look

after.

If your child has achieved a milestone at home, please do let us know and we can celebrate it at Nursery. Thank you.

**Has your child achieved something wonderful over Christmas- I am sure they have- please let us know.**

## Big and Little Squirrels Parent days- Week Commencing 20th February 2012

This is an opportunity for all parents of Big and little Squirrel children to come into Nursery to see their child's key person and have a little chat about their child's progress.

We are completing parent days during the week beginning Monday 20th February and if you

would like to come and see your child's key person, during that week, please put your name down, on the reply slip attached with this newsletter and we will speak with you to arrange a suitable convenient time with you. Thank you.



## Children in Need- Sponsored Events

Thank you to all who sponsored your children for this years Children In Need.

We raised a total of £413-30 from the sponsored events which took place during the Children in Need week. Congratulations to Harrison in Little Squirrels who raised the most amount of money raising a whopping £75-00 and congratulations to Lewis in Ladybirds who gained the most amount of sponsors which were 16 lucky people who Lewis found to sponsor him- truly magnificent amounts. Harrison will receive £20-00 for getting the most amount and Lewis will also receive £20-00 for

finding the most sponsors. So a very well done to Harrison and Lewis and all of the other children who raised money for this very worthwhile charity.

A very big thank you also to parents who invited us carol singing on Wednesday 21st December. We had a lovely evening. We were generously in-



vited to Lily and Tommy's house, Arthur's house, Owen's house and finally we ended up at Grace's house- we raised a grand total of £85-00 for Children in Need. We would like to thank those three parents for their kind invitation and for welcoming us into their homes at such a busy time of year.

Please can I take this opportunity to thank all parent's for their fantastic efforts and contributions to raise money for Children in Need. It is the only charity which we raise money for and I know your contributions will be very valued by this worthwhile cause.

## Ballet and French Lessons Spring 2011

We will be continuing with Ballet and French lessons after Christmas and if you would like your child to attend either lessons they run termly for 10 weeks and are £3-00 per lesson., i.e. £30-00 for the term.

Miss Joy from Fairies Feet School of Dancing teaches Ballet, based in Maisemore, but comes to Countryside on Mondays at 10-30pm. Miss Joy helps the children gain control,

discipline, musical rhythm and most of all great fun. Audrey has been teaching French with us for the past 10 years and she completes songs, activities, colourings, drawings with the children in French on Wednesday mornings and she also sends home information so you can practice at home. However, unfortunately we have not any places for new children to join the French this

term, but if you r child would like to continue, please complete the form

If you would like your child to also join in with Ballet please complete the form enclosed. Thank you.

Would your child like to complete any extra activities at Nursery?

## Nursery has been decorated during the Christmas break

Just to keep you fully informed we always complete some worthwhile activities when the Nursery is closed over the Christmas break.

We have now had a painter and decorator in during the Christmas break to re-decorate throughout the Nursery.

We make use of the Christmas period as whilst there are no children

around the painter can get cracking!! Therefore, I would like to thank Nigel for all his hard work over the Christmas period completing this endless job.

Also, whilst we are conscious about the bugs and germs that seem to continuously return to Countryside, we have been intensively cleaning our toys and equipment in preparation for the New Year. Whilst we clean

continuously we thought that if we "blitz" the equipment and then allow time for the disinfectant to work over the Christmas period, we may return with no coughs, colds or tummy bugs!!

We hope that you notice the nursery looks and feels cleaner and I feel happier knowing that it has had a good hygienic overhaul ready for the new year.

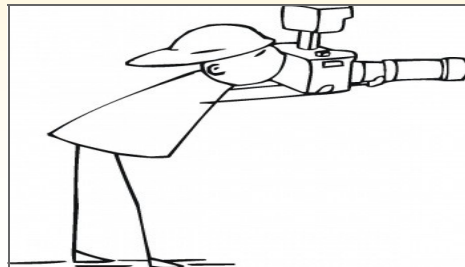
## Tesco Voucher order

Thank you so much to all of our parents, families and friends who collected Tesco vouchers for us.

We have placed our order and we have managed to receive some fabulous drums, egg shakers, some world maps and a Bee Bot. A Bee Bot is a programmable toy which the children will really enjoy using in the New Year, and this piece of equipment will help us to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the world skills.

## A few further pieces of information

In the New Year, rather than asking you to bring in photos of yourself, we thought that we would save you a job, and take photos of you as parents, when you collect your children. Then, we can print these photographs off and place them into a basket to use with our discussions with families and partnerships with parents. If anyone has any objections, please do let us know, but we do not mind what you look like- as to your children you are easily recognized as the best Mummy or Daddy!!



## And Finally....

On behalf of all the staff at Nursery we would like to thank you very much for all your kind thoughts, gifts, Christmas cards and best wishes which we received at Christmas. It was very generous of you and we are very grateful for your generosity. Thank you.

Also...

We had a fantastic Nativity this



year. The pre-school children completed a brilliant performance of "The Nativity" of which they thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to all parents who donated hobby horses and large horses we are so very grateful.

We had many grandparents, parents, friends and family who supported the children throughout the performances, which was truly wonderful. To consolidate the children's learning following this wonderful Nativity performance, we managed to squeeze a visit to a real stable, where we saw sheep, a newborn calf and we found baby Jesus lying in a manger. This visit took place on the last day of Nursery so we are very grateful to the farmer



for organizing this visit for our young children to have this experience. We hope you enjoy the photographs!!

And very finally, on behalf of all the staff at Nursery and myself, I would just like to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous and Healthy New Year.