



# Newsletter

April 2006

## Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to us!

Welcome to the start of our second Summer term at Steventon Children's House! We can not believe a year has past since our first day when we opened with just 2 children, Eliza and Josie. Such a lot has happened in our first year and the 'Children's House' has developed considerably.

## New starters

We look forward to welcoming Joseph, Gabriel, Archie and Sam who will be joining us this term. We will miss Eliza this term as she joins her new school, we wish her every happiness with her future.

## Sweatshirts and school bags

If all goes according to plan Steventon Children's House sweatshirts and bags will be available during the second week of term. They will be maroon and printed/stitched with our logo. The bags are big enough to hold books as well as numerous pictures, necklaces and other creations. The sweatshirts will be £10 and the bags £5, with any profits going towards school equipment.

## Children's days

Due to the increase in child numbers, from September 2006 we will be unable to offer places to children for less than 3 days a week. Although this has always been our policy we had been able to be more flexible while our numbers grew. The policy allows all children to feel part of the 'Children's House' as well as benefiting all aspects of their development.

## Clothing

We are hoping for some summer weather this term as we plan to do lots of outside activities. Please could children bring a hat and some sun screen so they are protected on such days. Other items to have in school are a change of clothes and wellingtons (we still go out if it is wet). Practical clothes are best worn to school which paint, glue and mud etc. can be easily washed out of. Aprons never seem to quite cover everything!

## Montessori

For those of you who are interested in learning more about Maria Montessori and her approach to children's learning, we are planning to have a 'mini library' of books about her and

*— where little people come first —*

her work for you to borrow. Many parents were given a copy of the magazine 'Your Montessori Child' when they registered, if you missed out and would like a copy let us know, we still have a few left.

Montessori Centre International run seminars on Saturdays on topics relating to many aspects of child development as well as the Montessori curriculum, a programme of these is kept on the parent's notice board.

It has been suggested that we have an information afternoon or evening concentrating on one aspect of the Montessori curriculum. If there is enough interest we will arrange this for later in the term or early Autumn. Let us know.

### **Project**

Our planned project this term is 'mini beasts'. Due to the late Spring however we were unable to undertake all we wanted to last term and so will delay 'mini beasts' until after half term. We hope to follow the progress of the seeds we sowed last term as well as sowing some annuals in the garden and following the life cycle of a frog. I am sure we will also fit in dinosaurs somewhere due to popular demand!

Please bring in anything connected with the project for the children to show or talk about during circle time.

### **Lunch Club**

This is an optional extra for those who would like to stay and have their lunch at school and lasts until 1.00pm. Children bring their own packed lunch, set the table and help tidy up afterwards. Lunch may be eaten outside on fine days. Plates, cutlery, and drinks will be provided and there is an oven if food needs to be heated up. The cost is £2 a session. Please let us know if you are interested. The lunch club will run as long as more than one child is interested for that day.

### **Donations welcome**

We are always looking for items such as egg shells (crushing and mosaics), milk bottle tops (collage and threading), corks (craft and keeping needles safe) pizza bases (sewing), old greeting cards (sewing and cutting exercises), unwanted bangles for stacking, small boxes and containers for junk modelling so please think of us before discarding.

We welcome visitors, especially those who would like to talk to us about their profession, religion or share a skill they may have for example. It helps us learn more about the world around us. Let us know if you are happy to come and talk to us.

### **Contact details**

If you would like to talk about your child, have any queries or would like some information I can talk briefly at the beginning of the day, I am always free to talk for longer at the end of the session or can arrange an evening if that is more convenient.

We look forward to a fun and happy term

Marianne and Sally

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