



Newsletter

July 2007

It's the end of the summer term already although I'm not sure where the summer was! It's been a very busy term and I'd like to thank you for helping and supporting us, we could not organise and undertake many of the events without you.

The Steventon fete, the gingerbread man, farm visit, 100 steps and sponsored fun day, school photographer, collecting vouchers and the parents evening have all been events we've organised or been involved with just since half term. Thank you, the children I know have appreciated it as well as us.

Leavers

Bryony, Roxanne, Joe, Darcy, Finn, Owen and Annabelle will all be leaving to go on to primary school in September. George too will be leaving as his family move to Norfolk. We wish them all the very best in their future lives and hope they pop in and see us some time.

End of term party

This will take place during our normal morning hours on the last day, Friday 20th July. All children are invited. A list will be put up asking for small donations of food, for example carrot sticks and grapes. This is not supposed to be a full lunch. We will also be doing a small presentation to all those who are leaving.

School photos

These, I am assured will be with us by the middle of the week.

Parent's evenings

Due to time constraints our recent parents evening was only for those children leaving. Our next parents' evening will take place in November. Please feel free to talk to me about your child after a morning session. You don't need to wait until a parent's evening.

French

Nathalie was very impressed by how much French the children have absorbed, in just two terms. She is also very complimentary about the children's manners and behaviour. We look forward to seeing her again in September.

Having been away for two of the sessions I was amazed to return to hear some of the children speaking very confidently in French. They go through what Montessori called a 'sensitivity to language' which lasts until they are about 6 years old. Children at this age find it so much easier to learn languages including their own due to this 'sensitivity'.

Nathalie teaches French at North Waltham School as part of the curriculum funded by 'The Friends' for years 1 to 6. A breakfast French club is also starting in the autumn for reception age children, so children do not have a break from the language before joining year

1. We plan to continue to offer French as part of the curriculum at the Children's House for as long as we are able.

Staff

This term has been our busiest not only with the amount of additional events, but also due to the amount of children who now attend. This would not have been the success it has been without the amazing commitment from the staff. Despite having young families they have worked lots of additional hours in the evenings as well as come in for additional days, often at very short notice. Thank you all.

Taira

Taira (Jean-May's mum) has worked with us every Wednesday throughout the term. She has been a natural with the children and seems to have a real affinity for the Montessori approach and should perhaps consider a career move! Taira has become a trusted member of the team. We have discovered Taira has another talent so we could be seeing her in this 'new role' next term. The children, parents and staff will all benefit - watch this space!

Claire

Thank you to Claire who has been able to work with us during this half term. Claire has very quickly become part of the team, and got to know us and the children very quickly. Coming from a traditional day care environment she has adapted extremely well to our Montessori environment. Amazed at how calm our school is she is keen to learn more and is now reconsidering her next career move.

Next term

This is already looking exciting! We've already booked another farm visit, a musical morning with Rachel and have several plans for our project on 'pattern'. We will also be having a visitor from 'Montessori Education UK' as the next stage of the accreditation process.

Our staffing will be more consistent too. Sharon, an experienced and qualified Montessorian will be joining us full time. Jane and Sheena will continue providing the third person, with Heather and Sindy coming in on the busier days.

Invoices

These will be sent out in August this year and will be due by the first day of term. Post dated cheques are fine for those wishing to spread the cost over the term as long as they are all handed in together. It is important that the first payment is made on time in order for staff and rent to be paid.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Marianne