



Newsletter

June 2010

We are already halfway through our summer term and really enjoying the warmer and brighter weather. We've been able to extend the room through having the fire door open all morning enabling the children to choose to do many activities outside. Let's hope the 'summer' weather continues into the autumn.

Website

I am so pleased to mention that this is at last up to date. A BIG thank you goes to Janin and Tim, Alexander's parents for sorting this out so quickly and efficiently, within a couple of days of my cry of help it was sorted. Thank you.

Our website now has our latest term dates, term planner and newsletters etc. We welcome all comments and any information you think might be useful to be added.

Education Grant for 3 and 4 year olds

This term saw the start of the 'single funding formula' with the education grant. The £4.15 an hour figure that our setting has been allocated will remain until at least next April. In order to achieve this figure we have had to show that our staff team are in the highest category regarding level of qualifications as well as adding to our possible start and finish times. These are all on the website and in the new parent handbook.

Next term the system will be different again as we will be offering 15 hours a week of grant instead of the current $5 \times 2 \frac{1}{2}$ hour sessions. A lot of thought and work has gone into how we will make this work. So many quality settings have had to opt out of the system or close due to changes in the grant system in the last three years. I will send out details of how our invoices will change at the end of the month.

Places

Steventon Children' House is now, I am sure you are aware, completely full with a waiting list. We have 10 children leaving us in July to go on to their next schools and another 10 children starting in September. These children will be coming for their introductory mornings in the next few weeks. We currently have just a few morning session places left for 2011/12, so it is never too early to let me know what you would like in the future. We do now have some updated prospectuses for any parent who is considering Steventon Children's House for their child from September 2011.

Project

We have had a lot of fun with our project based loosely around 'the seaside' this term. You should all have received a copy of our weekly planner at the beginning of term and there is now also a copy on our website on the 'news' page.

School Photographer

Steve Wood our regular photographer was with us last week. I will send out the proofs as soon as I receive them in a few days time. To ensure everyone gets their photographs before the end of term, could you get your forms and any money back to me as soon as possible, thank you.

Sports day

Last years sports day was a terrific success so this year we will be repeating the formula with 'Planet Sport' and Myke in particular. In order to accommodate Myke we have changed the date to 1st July and not as previously noted on the planner. It will still be different activities at different stations, but will also enable the children to show off some of the sporting skills they have been developing.

All children are invited to join in and it will start at around 1.15 pm. Further details will follow.

Treehouse Theatre

We are so pleased that Treehouse Theatre are returning for another of their stories on Tuesday July 13th. Their performance this year is to be based around the story of 'Sally and the Limpet'.

Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' vouchers

Keep these coming in, there is just until 8th June to collect them. We are collecting for some cookery equipment this year Thank you for all your vouchers to date.

Children's records

Steventon Children's House is now becoming computerised or at least the records are. Marianne and Miranda are busy inputting data from our paper records of the children's achievements into our new 'Keep Track' system. This enables us to chart the child's progress towards the 'Early Learning Goals' while they undertake activities at Steventon Children's House. We are aiming to have completed all the records for the children leaving this year ready for the end of the term. The system will help us produce a record for the children's next school, replacing the record of achievement used previously. As well as helping with reports it will also enhance our planning in the future and help us demonstrate to Ofsted that a Montessori environment enables a child to easily work towards the 'Early learning Goals'.

Car parking and dropping off

I understand that the 'car park' will have some work done to it over the half term, this should help a little with dropping off, but parents still need to consider others when parking their car in the mornings.

It is lovely to see even our youngest children come into school on their own. This helps with the car parking situation, the settling in process, the calm atmosphere and most important of all the needs of the child.

Contact with the School

If you would like to discuss your child, have any queries or would like some information we can talk only briefly at the beginning of the day, we are however always free to talk for longer at the end of the session.

I am always happy to be contacted through e-mail, telephone or to arrange a meeting.

Best wishes, Marianne.