



# Newsletter

September 2009

We welcome children to the autumn term and a new academic year. We are already 3 weeks into the new term as we enjoy some late 'summer weather'. There is much going on as Steventon Children's House continues to grow and develop.

## **New starters**

This has been an extraordinary term as far as new starters are concerned. We have 12 new children starting this term. We welcome Raffi, Elsie, Daniel, Lottie, Lola-May, Mika, Sebastian, Rosemarie, Hetty, Johnnie, Millie (and Nolwenn who will be joining us next month). All the children have settled in really well. Even in the first few days I was able to stand and watch as a room full of children, half of whom were new, were occupied with their chosen activity, not a sound, just happy faces and looks of concentration.

The down side to this is that we have not been able to keep up the 'At school today I....' forms for very long. Doing sometimes 7 or 8 of these forms in one morning, requires one member of staff all morning and I feel our hand writing may not have been readable in some cases. I am sure you will understand that after the first couple of weeks we felt it was not the best use of our time. We can do 2 in a morning so if you are ever concerned about what your child gets up to or you are encountering behavioural or health related issues for example let us know and we are always happy to complete in the forms for you.

## **Montessori Training**

In conjunction with the 'Montessori Partnership' we are starting to run 'Montessori assistant' courses from Steventon Children's House. In order to be able to run these courses we have had to be able to prove that we are a high standard Montessori setting with a wide range of Montessori activities available to the children. Sheena, Heather and Sindy and possibly a teacher from another setting will all be starting this term. This course is also open to parents, if any of you would like more details please contact Marianne.

## **Synthetic Phonics -Presentation to parents**

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> at around 12.40 pm Marianne will be doing a short presentation to parents on how we learn letter sounds at Steventon Children's House as part of the Montessori language curriculum. It is an opportunity to find out more about us as well as to ask questions and help provide more consistency between home and nursery.

We are also considering organising regular information evenings/afternoons on other aspects of Montessori education open to the wider community not just existing parents. Your views on timings and topics would be welcomed.

## **Sainsbury's goodies**

Following your amazing efforts collecting all those vouchers we have now received our parcels of goodies. We now have a fourth gym mat, a pop up maze of tunnels and mini tents

for the garden and more balls. Thank you all for all your effort last year; the children I am sure will really enjoy using them.

### **Autumn project**

This will be broadly based around the subject of 'healthy living'. The children will be doing activities as diverse as being shown how to blow their noses to making clay pots. The children have already made bread rolls and have been printing with vegetables as part of harvest. We also hope to be visited by a dentist, looking at healthy eating, exercise, clothing, autumn and Divali. We must not of course forget about Christmas! Our end of term performance this year though will reflect more of what the children of done over the term rather than just Christmas.

If your child has anything connected to this theme that they'd like to show us during circle time, please bring it in. We also would welcome parents/friends to come and talk to us about what they do either as a job or hobby.

### **All day Mondays?**

There are currently no more spaces left in any of our sessions morning or afternoon with only a few left for the next academic year and spaces filling fast for academic year beginning September 2011. We are therefore looking to extend the amount of sessions we offer. We did have some interest for all day sessions on Mondays although not enough to start this term. We are now offering the option after Christmas if there is enough interest. The all day sessions are for children who are around three years old, toilet trained and mature enough to handle group situations. **Please let me know immediately if you would be interested.**

### **Parent's evening**

This will take place in November after half term, dates to be confirmed.

### **Sweatshirts and school bags**

These are not compulsory, but the children do look very smart in our sweatshirts. Our bags too are very practical for taking home pictures etc. The sweatshirts are £10 and the bags are £4.50 and are available at the school.

### **Clothing**

As 'summer' comes to an end could children bring named wellington boots and a warm coat to school when necessary as we will regularly use the outdoors. A change of clothes should also be at school. There has already been some confusion over slippers, so could you please ensure all footwear and outdoor clothing is named.

### **Contact details**

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

Marianne

