



Newsletter

September 2010

Welcome back all of you to the start of the autumn term at Steventon Children's House. Due to our popularity and consequential expansion there is a lot of news making this a rather long newsletter.

New starters

I thought last September was an extraordinary term as far as new starters are concerned, but we are growing in numbers every week. I have been able to accept some new children over the holiday due to our new setting opening up in January. We welcome Dottie, Gilbert, Alfie, Willow, Callum, Oscar, Samuel, Martha, Maia, Roddy, Rory, Lily and Amelie who is joining us in September. Visitors I have shown around during the last 2 weeks have all remarked how settled and happy the children are and a couple did not believe me when I said that nearly half of them are new.

The down side to this is that we have not been able to keep up the 'At school today I...!' forms. If there are several new children it takes up one member of staff all morning just to fill them in. We have not forgotten and will do these when we can. If you are ever concerned about what activities your child likes to do or you are encountering behavioural or health related issues for example let us know and we are always happy to complete the forms for you.

Staffing

We are very proud about the quality of our staffing. Congratulations to Heather for passing her level 4 in childcare, she now works full time with us and has taken on the additional responsibilities as if she has been doing it all her life. Heather is also taking over the SENCO role. Heather with Sheena are both doing really well on the Montessori course we run from Steventon and the head of the course was extremely impressed by the level of work they are achieving. Miranda as Montessori mentor is working most days helping all of us with our roles. Romy will continue to work on Tuesday mornings helping the day remain happy and calm.

Sharon continues as deputy for 4 days a week, providing much needed support at this busy time. I am at the Children's house most days for at least part of a session and all day Friday. As always I am available to contact through my mobile or e-mail.

Overton Children's House

Thank you for all you kind messages regarding our up and coming expansion. I had been a little frustrated turning people away due to lack of spaces, so when St. Luke's Hall came along I seized the opportunity.

Overton will be run on very similar grounds as Steventon except for the hours including a breakfast club we will be running at Overton and potentially more longer days. From January

I will manage Overton Children's House, but continue to oversee Steventon Children's House working closely with the new manager and Sharon. Heather will be my deputy at Overton Children's House.

If you would like to know more about Overton Children's House please do let me know.

Key persons

We have delayed assigning key persons this term due to various staff changes and the starting up of Overton Children's House. We hope to complete the process in the next couple of weeks. We feel it is better for the child if we delay it as it reduces the chance of changing at a later date as well as giving us a chance to see which teachers different children feel more comfortable with.

Synthetic Phonics -Presentation to parents

Last year I did a short presentation to parents on how we learn letter sounds at Steventon Children's House as part of the Montessori language curriculum. The feedback from this was very positive so I have decided to do this again on Friday 1st October at 12.40pm. 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 new cd player, cooking aprons and cooking equipment and some more outside 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 'ourselves'. The children will be doing activities as diverse as pairing photos of themselves, and building houses. The children will be looking at their favourite colours, where they live, their bodies and families. We also hope to be visited by a dentist, celebrate Divali and of course we can not forget about Christmas! We will give you more details about our end of term performance nearer to the time.

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.

Wednesday afternoons

Despite being full for all our morning sessions we still have a lot of spaces on a Wednesday afternoon. Please let me know if you would like your child to attend on a Wednesday afternoon.

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.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to give a BIG thank you to Allyson Taylor, Emme's mum, who has been helping with my marketing. If you or your business are ever in need of help do call her she's full of ideas.

Another BIG thank you goes to Tim and Janin Cromarty. They have been keeping the website updated and are now working on developing it to make it more interactive, to include another setting and bring it into the 21st century. You should be able to find all our latest news on www.steventonchildrenshouse.co.uk.

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