



Smartypants®

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

The Newsletter of Smartypants Day Nursery

Autumn/Winter 2009/2010

Welcome to this Autumn/Winter edition of our newsletter.

In this edition we will be letting you know about developments planned for coming months, as well as reporting on some of our recent initiatives. Any suggestions for future issues, do please complete, cut out and return the slip on the back page.

Best regards

Helen



Helen Lane, Nursery Owner and Manager



Finger on the Pulse

The personal security of children, parents and staff is of paramount importance to us.

Recently we installed a biometric finger print security system on the front door. Using leading edge technology, the system recognises the unique nature of each finger.

A Capital Idea

We are delighted to tell you that we have successfully applied for a government capital grant administered by Early Years, part of the City of York Council. The grant covers IT equipment and systems.

All the hard work of going through the paperwork and process has paid off. Over the next few months we will be obtaining the equipment and materials to enhance child play and development and increase efficiency in running the nursery.

For example we have installed a home corner, which will include a play kitchen; obtaining an interactive smart board which will concentrate on pre-school language and literacy; and buying "Jolly phonics", which is a system which teaches the sound of letters.

We will also be able to improve our EYFS planning as a result of better IT systems.

Health & Safety Adviser Appointed

Health and safety legislation and practice is becoming ever more complex so Alistair Hume of AHSC will be helping us further improve our systems.

Also, Andrea Jackson will be our internal health & safety officer and each room will have a staff member responsible for health & safety liaison.



Sleigh Bells Ringing, Are You Listening?

All the nursery children had a lovely time during our Christmas surprise. We set off from nursery with our bells ringing and music playing as we headed off on our magical mystery tour. Donner and Dancer the real reindeers had brought Santa and Mary Christmas with them. As you can see from the pictures, some children did venture to stroke the reindeers albeit with a little coaxing. However this wasn't the case when Santa handed out the presents!!! Back at nursery, Mulled Wine and Coffee were waiting , to warm the parents up.

Ho Ho Ho.....



Looking to the Future

Many thanks to all those parents who completed our recent parent survey. We had 22 replies and lots of really good ideas and comments.

We will be going through all the feedback and publishing a complete action plan early in the New Year. However, we have decided to take immediate action on menus and communication generally.



Food for Thought

We have asked a registered dietitian to look at the content, nutritional value and balance of our menus. We have been asked to keep a diary for a 2 week period. The dietitian will then report on findings and recommendations.

Communication, Communication, Communication.

We are now in the process of improving our telephone system to aid better communication generally.

Open nights will take place once a term. We will let you know the next date shortly. Helen will be available each Tuesday between 10 am and midday. Should any Parent/Carer wish to chat, or have any concerns then please contact Helen direct.



Best in Class

We have recently joined Central Partnership, which is a forum of local schools and nurseries and is overseen by City of York Council.

The idea of the forum is to share best practice and report on practical ideas that have helped to further improve nursery standards.

Welcome to Our Team

We welcome Jen and Meagan to our Team. Some of you may remember Meagan who worked at the Nursery prior to working overseas. Louise B has now returned from maternity leave and will be working on a part-time basis

Staff Training

Training is ongoing at Smartypants. Staff recently renewed their First Aid certificate during In House training.

Victoria, Debbie and Louise have completed their Food Safety Level 2 certificate.

Jennifer has recently attended a course related to books and how to implement reading skills in the rooms.



Please pass this issue on to any friends who are seeking high quality child care and development

Suggestions for future issues (Please complete and return to Smartypants)

