

A special welcome to all our new children and their parents. Most of our first cohort of 'cherubs' have moved over to 'angels' recently which has paved the way for some gorgeous new arrivals! They are all settling beautifully into their new surroundings ably supported and loved by our talented team at both settings.

Our build up to Easter was filled with wonder and excitement at the arrival of our 'living eggs'; we were delighted to see nine out of the eleven eggs hatch into gorgeous chicks (the average success rate is 30% - but then we don't like to be considered average!) The chicks brought out the best in everyone and the children, staff, parents and grandparents enjoyed some magical moments watching them hatch, feeding them, holding them and in some cases just being mesmerised by them! We were sad to see them go back to their free range farm in rural Cheshire but as chick-life goes, I think they got a pretty good deal!



Parent/Carer Newsletter Spring 2013

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Parent/Carer Newsletter. We have been busy making memories together and are delighted to share a selection of them with you...



"Chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken, lay a little egg for me!"



WE'VE CHANGED LIVES
THE MACMILLAN CANCER CHARITY

Thank you to all who supported Scarlett and Kitt's toy stall in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Charity. Their efforts here and the proceeds from a cake stall at school raised just over £100!



Staffing News

We are delighted to announce **Natalie's** permanent promotion to **Lead Practitioner**. She has done a magnificent job alongside the other 'cherubettes' since September and we are looking forward to her extending her role across both settings. For the next term, Natalie will split her time between both settings according to the needs of the key groups. We wish **Louise** well as she heads towards her final exams for her BA (Hons) and we are then looking forward to a super duper graduation party!! **Sophie Hobday** is very close to completing her Level 3 CYPW qualification, after which she can concentrate fully on preparations for her wedding to the lovely Adam in January 2014! **Kerry's** return from maternity leave is scheduled for the beginning of July - children will be allocated to her key group in due course but in the interim period they will be cared for by another member of the team. We have recently been saddened by **Steph's** sudden decision to leave our company; she will not be returning after her forthcoming holiday. We wish her well in pastures new. The children (and staff!) have been delighted to welcome **Andrew** back into the team on a more regular basis; **Kristy, Lisa** (Sophie Mc's mum!) and **Kim** have also been recruited on a part time casual basis to assist with a whole range of duties within our growing business. Our students, **Lauren** and **Danielle** continue to support our work with the children and are growing in knowledge and confidence working alongside dedicated and enthusiastic practitioners.



Big school beckons...!

I can't believe that we have entered the final term of this school year and that before long a *third* of our 'angels' will be leaving us to go to big school - some of us have already bought shares in Kleenex by way of preparation! For those of you who are delighted with your allocation, we are thrilled for you, for those of you less so all we can do is to reassure you that we will do our utmost to ensure that your child is equipped and ready to cope with the demands of a new school regardless of where that is! Our transition work continues in earnest throughout this term. We are delighted to be welcoming a Head teacher from one of our local schools into the setting for the first time this week and look forward to meeting with other teachers and staff at all the schools in due course. From discussions at our Transition Workshop in December, many of you were concerned about mealtimes at school and the notion of 'self-service'. We have invested in some 'self-serve' trays for the pre-schoolers to have a practice with us here and as of this week we are introducing our 'golden table' which is situated just outside the dining area and where four children each day will have their lunch. They will go to lunch first, 'self-serve' (with the help of Mel!) and then carry their tray to the golden table - how grown up! In due course the school uniforms will be out in the role play area and we will be engaged in lots of 'self care' activities like independent dressing as well as the on-going work on phonics and numeracy in the pre-school sessions.



"Angel friends heading to 'big' school"

SPEECH BUBBLES PARENT WORKSHOP



Thanks to all those who attended the Workshop in March. The evening was very informative and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive:

"I now know that by using fewer questions and just 'commenting' on my child's play, I can help to develop his speech"

"We were able to eliminate some issues and identify the exact difficulty our child was experiencing"

"It was reassuring to know that its not just our daughter who struggles sometimes"

"I didn't realise you could self refer to speech therapy"

"I'm going to stop correcting her and instead model what the word should sound like"

"My son does actually communicate but not always be using words and for now that's ok"



Look out for the dates/times of our next Parent Workshops on Potty Training and Rainforest Relaxation!



Birthday Celebrations

Seldom does a week go by when we are not celebrating a birthday or two with children and staff! In view of our commitment to healthy eating (we had our Nutrition and Oral Health Award renewed for another two years in January!) and at the request of many parents, can we ask that you avoid bringing sweets into nursery to share on birthdays. We don't want to miss out on the fun so, If you wish to bring something in honour of a birthday then we'd be delighted to receive a book for our library, balloons, bubbles, seeds to plant in our garden, party hats, masks or something similar. This way our birthday smiles will last a whole lot longer and parents feel under less pressure at home time! We are more than happy for you to provide a cake for us to share at lunch or teatime.



"Having fun in the great outdoors!"

