



## **Hopscotch Newsletter January 2010**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Thank you for the Christmas cards and kind gifts you gave to the staff which were all greatly received. We hope the children enjoyed all of the Christmas festivities.

### **SNOW**

A really big thank you to all of our staff who managed to battle through the snow in treacherous conditions to ensure that all Hopscotch nurseries were open, functioning normally and providing a full service to parents despite the recent adverse weather. One parent at our Portland Road branch commented 'this has made a real difference to working parents'.

We are aware that many other nurseries and schools were closed or shut early, so you may be interested to know that Portland Road, Nizells Avenue and Peacehaven nurseries can place children until the 31st August after their 5th birthday, and Bavant Road and Seaford nurseries can place children until the day before their 8th birthday. This could be very valuable to parents during school closures and inset days as Hopscotch can provide emergency, part-time and/or holiday care for school children until these dates. These sessions are subject to availability, so if you are interested please discuss this with your Nursery Manager.

### **ZEBEDEE'S HOT LUNCHES**

The introduction of optional hot lunches at Bavant Road nursery as an alternative to packed lunches, has been well received by children and parents. The children are enjoying the variety of freshly prepared meals and parents say it has really helped them by saving time.

We are considering extending this service to other Hopscotch nurseries, so please contact your Nursery Manager if you are interested.

### **NAPPIES**

There has been an extremely positive response in favour of our change to Bambo Nature eco-friendly nappies. We believe that this change will make a real difference and strengthens our ethos for social responsibility. Our staff have reported how pleased they are with the quality of the nappies with regard to use and children's comfort. Please note, nappies are not supplied at our Seaford nursery, however, we would like to offer a nappy service to interested parents (see separate letter).

### **PARENTS SURVEYS**

Thank you for returning your surveys; your feedback and comments are very valuable to us to improve our service. Our annual Hopscotch Awards Evening is approaching on the 5th March, so could we please remind those of you who have not sent back your survey and staff nomination to do so as soon as possible.

Thank you.

### **LATE COLLECTION CHARGES**

Regretfully it has been necessary to review and increase our late collection charges. This is due to a small number of parents who are often late to collect their children which impacts on staff's personal commitments including collection of their own children. **From 1st March 2010, a penalty charge of £15 for each 15 minutes late, or part thereof, will be applied.**

We do appreciate the many parents who collect their child promptly, leaving enough time for questions and feedback at the end of each session. Thank you.

### **EARLY YEARS EDUCATIONAL ENTITLEMENT**

Please note that the EYEE entitlement for the Spring Term 2010 is from 4th January to 19th March 2010.

### **STAFF NEWS**

Many congratulations and best wishes to;

Siobhan Murphy, from Portland Road, who has recently given birth to baby Harry. Mum and baby are doing well.

Sarah Harman (nee Tulley) from Nizells Avenue, on her recent marriage to Steve.

### **FEE PAYMENTS REMINDER**

Please remember that full fees are due by the 15th of the month regardless of your payment method. Payment can be made by direct debit, cheque, cash, debit/credit card, childcare vouchers and bank transfer.

*If you do pay by bank transfer, can we ask that you notify us by email with the amount you have paid and quote your child's name and nursery as a reference. This will ensure that your payment is credited to your Hopscotch account more efficiently. Bank details can be found on our website.*

### **NURSERY EVENTS**

For your nursery events in 2010 please visit the events page on the 'About Us' section on the Hopscotch website. Various events are listed, including Pancake Day and Easter Bonnet competitions, Parents Evenings and Festival celebrations.

### **OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS**

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