



HOPSCOTCH

Hopscotch Newsletter May 2009

Dear Parents,

Hopscotch Awards Evening

Our annual Hopscotch Presentation and Social Evening was held on the 6th March at the Royal Albion Hotel in Brighton. There are now 29 staff members who have completed more than 5 years service and presentations of champagne and certificates were made by Hopscotch owner Barbara Watson to:

Jenny Evison, Margaret Jackson, Sam Collins, Georgina Allwood, Cathy Dunn, Siobhan Murphy, Amie Fox, Maxine English, Clare Cannell, Elaine Kirby, Clare Colliss, Emma Buss, Debbie Tanner, Katie Peerless, Chantelle Connolly, Lucie Brennan, Lizzie Whitmore, Shelley Patching, Lara Purdy, Vanessa Laing, Gemma Middleton, Gemma Coles, Claire Martin and Teresa Steinicke.



Presentations of champagne and a cheque were awarded to **Natasha Ransley from Seaford** and **Gail Barker from Portland Road** for 10 years service, and to **Jo Halling** from the Hopscotch office for 15 years service.



Gail Barker & Natasha Ransley receiving their awards from Barbara Watson

Many congratulations to **Sarah Standish from the Bavant Road nursery** voted by her colleagues as *Hopscotch Nursery Practitioner of the Year 2008*. Sarah was presented with a trophy, store voucher and certificate.

Many congratulations also to **Lara Purdy from Nizells Avenue Nursery** who was the parents' choice for *Hopscotch Parent's Nursery Practitioner of the Year 2008* and also received a trophy, store voucher and certificate from Barbara.



The evening continued with speeches by the Nursery Managers and refreshments. This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for all Hopscotch staff to come together, to meet friends and colleagues, and for staff to receive recognition and reward.

School Leavers

We would be grateful if parents could inform us of the leaving dates for children going to school in September. You will have already received a reply slip, so please return this as soon as possible. All bookings will close on the 28th August 2009 unless you inform us otherwise. Please be aware that all leavers are required to give two months notice in writing and that if you pay all or part of your fees by childcare voucher you must remember to stop these payments in good time, taking into account the refund of your deposit in the final month. If you have any queries and would like a calculation of your final invoices, please call the office on 01273 385577.

Store Vouchers

Please continue to collect and donate Tesco Computers for Schools and Sainsbury Active Kids vouchers which are available until 7th June and 3rd June. Last year we were able to 'buy' interesting software for our computers and exciting garden toys and equipment, which have benefited all the children.

Bank Holiday Closures

The nurseries will be closed on Monday 4th May and Monday 25th May 2009. No fees are due for these days.

Ofsted Inspections

Congratulations to the managers and staff teams from the **Peacehaven** and **Seaford** nurseries who were both awarded a grading of "Good" (strong practice) in their unannounced Ofsted inspections in April. The inspector stated that the Peacehaven nursery is "well led and managed, with a well organised staff team in place to ensure children receive effective care and learning". The inspector for Seaford stated that "children play in an attractive and well planned environment" and "staff plan a range of exciting activities that help children make progress in all areas of learning".

The reports are available for parents to read; you can access them online via our website www.hopscotch.uk.com or www.ofsted.gov.uk or if you would like a paper copy, please ask at the nursery.

Early Years Educational Entitlement

Please note that the EYEE entitlement for Summer Term 2009 is as follows:

Brighton & Hove	20th April to 17th July
Peacehaven	20th April to 10th July
Seaford	20th April to 17th July (no funding for half term w/c 25th May 09)

Kids Club Seaford

Our popular Kids Club at Seaford for children under 8 is available for breakfast club, after-school and during all school holidays. Please call the nursery on **01323 492123** if you would like to book any sessions for out-of-school care.

Hopscotch Staff

Please note that if any Hopscotch staff member cares for your child/children outside of the nursery e.g. babysitting, then this is a private agreement between yourselves. *Hopscotch accepts no responsibility or liability for any matters which may arise from this arrangement.*