

# Nursery News!

## November / December 2011

### *Updates for your diary, room reports and requests*

We are well into the new term now and things are getting very busy. Now that the playground has finished the children are taking full advantage of all the new areas of play. They love the water play and digging pit and for the older children the new climbing wall is proving to be a big hit!! Winter is just around the corner and we would like to remind everyone that hats, scarves, gloves, coats, appropriate shoes and or wellies are essential for outdoor play. Please remember to bring these in daily!!!!

We would like to thank everyone for your kind donations to our harvest festival box. The box was donated to the nursing home around the corner from the nursery and some of the preschool children delivered the box last week.

We are organising a parent's evening for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 6.15pm. Your child's key worker will be approaching you for your appointments. This is the opportune time to discuss your child's development, any questions or concerns you may have or just a general roam around to see how your child spends their day. These evenings are important in your child's development that allows both you and us to share information that is not always obvious from day to day. Please try and make it you won't regret it!!

Christmas festivities are upon us and once again and the big man himself will be making an appearance - yes Father Christmas has taken time off from his busy schedule of making presents with his elves to join us at our Christmas party. He will make his appearance with his big red sack and one of his special elves to wish a very 'special' Merry Christmas to all our children at nursery. All children are invited!! If it is not your normal session we ask that you bring your child to the party by 1.30 and collect promptly at 3.00. We can't wait!!!!!!

## ***Room Reports:***

**Baby Room:** As most of you already know Donna has now left for her maternity leave and she has given birth to a beautiful baby boy named Leo. Both mother and baby are doing great and Olivia-Grace in our preschool is a very proud 'big' sister. Nidhi from the Tweenies will be acting senior working alongside Teresa and Rosie until Donnas' return. She is doing a fantastic job and has settled well in her new role!

The babies are really enjoying their tactile and messy play so please ensure that your child does not come to nursery in their 'best' clothes or clothes that you do not want damaged. The nursery cannot be held responsible for the children having a good time, after all wouldn't you rather the mess be here??

**Tweenies Room:** I'm sure you will all agree that the extension in the tweenies room has made a mass improvement on the overall play area. The children are benefiting from all the new areas including a 'quiet' area for them to chill and rest as well as their own computer. They really enjoy all the different activities they can play on, and some if not most could probably teach us a thing or two when it comes to IT!!

With autumn arriving we have collected leaves from the garden and turned them into our 'autumn' display. The children love to see their work put on show and you can see from all the displays how busy they have been. We are in the process of updating our family albums and if you have any photos of your child with other family members, friends or pets it would be much appreciated. If you do not want to part with these photos we can scan them and return the originals to you.

**Preschool:** The preschool children have been very busy this term and in particular they have really enjoyed our nature and observational walk to include leaf collecting. We have been learning about many festivals and celebrations which include Sukkot and Diwali.

The 'letter of the week' is going really well and we would like to thank you for supporting your children with this at home.

Christmas is approaching and once again our super stars are practicing for the performance of the year!! We will soon be sending home a script for you to help your child practice and learn the songs at home. I'm sure you can appreciate that not all children attend the same session so rehearsals are difficult but not unachievable with your help!! The concert will take place at St. Jude's Church on Woodborough Road on

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am. All parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, and friends welcome. It is a must see event and bring plenty of tissues!!! You can take pictures and video, however we as a nursery video the performance every year and is available at a cost of £2.00. If you do take pictures or videos please be aware of safeguarding and make sure it is for your viewing of your child.

Part of the preschool curriculum is learning about safety and the dangers around us. We are having a special guest appearance to come and speak to the children about road safety on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 1.30. If your child does not normally attend this session you are welcome to book in an extra session if numbers allow or alternatively you must stay with your child to make sure we are meeting the ratios.

If any parents have any nursery clothing at home, would you kindly return them, we are running low on spares. It would also be helpful if you could send in a change of clothes for your child in case of messy play accidents.

**Out of School Club:** Busy, busy, busy... doing new and exciting activities. The children really enjoy their creations, especially ones with lots of glitter!!

**Dates to remember:**

23 <sup>rd</sup> November	1.30pm	Road Safety Awareness in the preschool
24 <sup>th</sup> November	6.15pm	Parent's Evening
9 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	Christmas Party (with a special visit from the big guy)
16 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Christmas Production - St. Jude's Church
16 <sup>th</sup> December	11.45	Christmas Dinner

**Nursery Closure Times** - We will be closing on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at normal time and re-opens on Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012. This is your holiday week and your December invoice will reflect this. The new fees are effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, so please make sure your standing orders or direct debit is changed to reflect this. Also please ensure that your accounts are brought up to date before the nursery closure as prompt payments allows us to keep costs down to a minimum and your compliance is essential.

**Quick Reminder:** We are coming to the end our Fundraising year and as most of you are aware we have been fundraising for our chosen charity QMC children's ward E38. All monies raised from open days, toy sales, commissions from photo's etc are put together for the purchase of specialist equipment and or toys for the E38 ward for children with special needs. Our money tins will be collected at the end of November so please any loose change can make a difference.

We would also like to ask all parents and carers to join our gift drive. We are asking for wrapped Christmas presents for children of all ages of which we will deliver to the QMC children's ward for those children who will be spending their Christmas in the hospital. However please indicate on the parcel whether it is for a boy or girl and the suitable age group. We have limited our fundraising this year to these two very special causes and if you can find it your heart and your pocket to support this we would be very grateful!! It does not have to be much, but the cost of bringing a smile to a child's face is priceless!!

#### **And a final note.....**

Over the past couple of years with all the bad winters, we have had some damage to the guttering. Upon closer inspection we have also noticed some wear and tear to the roof. Therefore whilst we are repairing the guttering the roof will have a thorough inspection and if need be repaired or replaced, and as you can see from the height of the building it requires more than just a ladder. This weekend the erection of scaffolding will commence. I'm not sure how long the scaffolding will be in place, this really depends on the roof, but I will keep you posted. All posts where the children play will be foam wrapped for safety and this will not stop the children from playing outside. However we may have to temporarily uplift the artificial grass by the water play to eliminate any damage. The safety and well being of your children are first and foremost, maintenance and repairs are a necessity in making this happen.

With December being a short and extremely busy month this will be our last newsletter of 2011. So therefore all of us at the Ark Nursery would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and A Prosperous New Year!!

Be Merry! Eat Healthy! And most importantly Be Safe!

Thank you for your continued support

The Ark Nursery Team