



News

12-05-2015

Dear Parents/ Carers

There have been lots of new things going on in and around the nursery. One of the biggest changes has been the introduction of Facebook and Twitter accounts for the nursery.

These have had very positive feedback from parents in relation to the things we have been able to share with you and the reminders we have been able to send. It is our hope that we will be able to continue to use this as a way to share ideas and keep you up to date with the comings and goings of the nursery.

If you aren't following us already you can find us on Facebook at Churchdown Day Nursery Ltd, or on Twitter @ChurchdownDay.

Learning Journey's

Here at Churchdown we create learning journeys for each child. These include photos and observations of the children whilst they are with us that the child gets to take with them when they leave.

In order to make these more inclusive we would love to be able to add in things that the children have done away from nursery, so if you have done something new and exciting please feel free to take photos or write a little something and email them to us so we can add them into this record of your little ones lives. This also then gives us things to talk to the children about.

Planning

Over the coming few weeks we have lots of exciting things for the children to learn about and explore. If you have any ideas of activities we could do in relation to any of these interests please feel free to let us know.

11/05 – Our World

18/05 – Farm

25/05 – Jungle

01/06 – Minibeasts

08/06 – Summer

15/06 – At the beach (& Father's Day)

22/06 – Pirates and Princess'

29/06 – Space

06/07 – Day and Night

Leave Dates

Many of you with children in the Tiggers and Biggies have previously let us know that you are looking at placing your child in to Pre-school.

Now that school and pre-school allocations have been received can we ask that you let us know as soon as possible if you know your child will be leaving and when as we currently have a waiting list for spaces within our Tiggers and Biggies rooms.

Please remember that if your child is leaving we do require a minimum of a month's notice

Sickness

As we have recently had a spate of tummy bugs can we please take this opportunity to remind all parents/ carers about the nurseries illness policy.

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea can we please ask that they are kept away from the nursery until 48 hours after the last time they were unwell. We are aware that there are a number of reasons small children can vomit or have loose nappies therefore, if a child is unwell during the day it is our policy to keep a close eye on them and if they have three or more separate episodes to call parents to collect.

This policy is applicable to staff as well as children and is in place to ensure any spread of illness is minimised.

Whilst we also accept that there can be a number of reasons that a child develops a high temperature during the day it is nursery policy to only be administering infant Paracetamol in emergencies and we would contact you first. If you feel that your child may require Paracetamol during the day can we please request that you provide this medicine and ensure you complete all relevant medicine forms.

Whilst we appreciate that it is often difficult, it may at times be beneficial to keep your child at home in order that they recover and don't catch any other coughs/colds and thus minimise the spread of illnesses.

New Staffing

Some of you may have noticed some new or unfamiliar faces around the nursery.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Amy Cranfield. We have taken Amy on as an apprentice, and she will be working with all groups whilst she undertakes her training with us.

Also around the nursery you may have seen some of our supply staff.

Fiona has been with us for several years, is NNEB qualified and has many years knowledge and experience at all levels of nursery life having previously managed a child care setting.

Grace has also been with us for a few years and tends to cover mornings for us around her nanny position. Grace is also qualified and has been a deputy manager at another nursery before moving into nanny.

Other faces you may have seen are Jess and Tia. Both girls came to us as students to do their level three placements and have remained on our supply. Tia will be going to university in September but will still do the occasional shift, whereas from June Jess will be a permanent member of our team.

Amy Boulden is our current GLOSCOL student.

If you do come across a new face please feel free to have a chat.

Natural Resources

Now the better weather is upon us many of us will be out and about exploring the outdoors more. Can we please ask that if you are out and about and come across any natural materials, such as shells at the beach, that if possible could you collect them for the children to explore.

If any of you are also clearing your the cupboards at home and come across and old pots, pans, spoons etc. that you would like to get rid of can we please have them to help support out natural play.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jake who has successfully completed his level 3, and recently undertaken his fire marshal training. Steph has also nearly completed

Fire Alarms

Part of our ongoing checks to ensure that we provide the safest possible environment for your child/ren is that we need to ensure that our fire alarms work on a weekly basis.

We do try to conduct these tests at different times throughout the week as it provides opportunities for the children to get used to and recognising the sound of the alarm so should it sound in a real emergency the children will be less distressed.

On occasions we do test the alarms first thing in the mornings before the children arrive. However, if you do arrive and hear the alarm sounding can we please request that you wait outside the building until the alarm is silenced

Questionnaire Feedback

We would like to thank all of you who have recently completed a questionnaire. On the whole the feedback we have received has been entirely positive.

Some of the comments we received have been:

- ❖ Fantastic displays.
- ❖ Children love the food.
- ❖ Positive welcome, making drop-offs easier.
- ❖ Children are encouraged to join in and challenge themselves.
- ❖ Staff are friendly and welcoming.
- ❖ Good to have male and female staff.

Some other points that have been raised through the questionnaires have been:

- ❖ That some parents are still letting others into the building. Can we please request that you do not do this it is for the security of all children who attend the nursery.
- ❖ Parents would like to see more creative work going home. We have addressed this with staff in rooms and hope to be sending more craft home on a regular basis.
- ❖ Parents are not always aware of their child's key person. Each room does have a key person list on display outside the room so that parents are able to see who their child's key person is.
- ❖ Parents would like more information at handovers, not just about food. We have reiterated to all staff to share individual moments.
- ❖ Parents aren't always aware of planned activities. We have reminded staff to keep white boards up to date and to show parents the planning boards so parents can have a

ECAT

Throughout the nursery we are going to be introducing ECAT into our planning.

What is ECAT?

ECAT (Every Child a Talker) aims to improve the speech/ language and communication skills of all children under 5. ECAT was set up in response to research, which found that upwards of 50% of children on school entry have some speech, language and communication needs.

It has been found that

The overall aims of ECAT are:

To raise children's achievement in early language development

To increase practitioner knowledge and understanding of children's language and development and how to support it.

To increase parental understanding of and involvement in their child's language development.

How can parents help?

- Follow the child's lead. Letting her choose what she wants to play with will motivate her to communicate. Children show preferences from birth.
- Be interested in what he is doing. Match body position by being at the same level. Naming actions builds the vocabulary for verbs.
- Wait. Pause to decide whether to respond straight away.
- Listen and watch. Children need pauses as thinking spaces.
- Choose your response. Build on what the child has said. Repeat back adding a word or two. Model the correct form without correcting.
- Be playful and have fun. Play with sounds and words, imitating and repeating words and rhythms. Join-in with playful sounds, such as vehicles and animals.
- Use gestures, signs, facial expression and tone of voice. Communicate actively to engage children, but in a gentle way with babies.
- Be careful with questions. Comment by describing what the child is doing, wonder aloud, show your interest in short phrases. Aim for 4 comments to 1 question.
- Questions need to support thinking. Be aware that early talkers do not have concepts of shape, space, colour etc. and these questions interrupt thinking and learning. Questions that enable children become more independent, predict what might happen and plan their play are helpful.

How are we going to implement ECAT?

We are going to introduce ECAT on a gradual basis by initially adding ECAT activities to our daily planning in order to offer children a wide variety of activities to support language development.

We will also be adding an additional assessment to our two year checks to be able to review each child's language and communication skills. If at this point we identify a child who may require additional support we will meet with parents to develop a targeted plan to aid development.

If you do require any additional information regarding ECAT and ways that you can support your child's learning and development please feel free to speak to staff who

Sun hats and Sun Cream

As the better weather is fast approaching, can we please remind parents to provide named sun hats and sun cream. We do have a number of spare hats that children can borrow, however, we are unable to use other children's sun cream, and thus there may be occasions where your child will not be able to enjoy exploring the outdoors without it.

Session Times

Can we please remind parents to wait outside of rooms until the start of sessions as the staff are busy trying to prepare.

Sessions are from 8am – 1pm and from 1pm – 6pm.

Can we also ask that parents are prompt collecting their children at the end of their sessions as it has a knock on affect with our ratios. For parents who are continually late collecting we will be introducing a late fee.

Labelling Clothes

As we are sure you can appreciate with so many children it is inevitable that mix ups happen if items are not labelled, and thus can we please ask all parents to ensure that all items that come into nursery are clearly labelled to avoid any such confusion.

A local company that can assist with labels that are durable and cost effective is:-

<http://www.nametag-it.co.uk>

If ordering online please use the code church115 to be able to claim your 10% discount.

Nappies and Wipes

Please can all parents ensure that they are providing their child with their own wipes and nappies. These can be brought in in bulk or in your child's bag on a daily basis. This is to avoid any unnecessary skin reactions that can occur if children have sensitive skin.



Babies Bottles

Can we please remind parents to provide any formula bottles that their child may need during the day either ready-made or measured out in labelled containers and bottles for us to mix.

This is to avoid any confusion when we are preparing feeds for your little one.

Biggies Toothbrushing

Biggies are going to be re-introducing toothbrushing within the room.

Can we please ask that you provide your child with a toothbrush and toothpaste in a small labelled wash bag or pencil case.

We will be sending our separate permission letters over the next few days.

We will be introducing this to other rooms

Home Friends

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to two of our friends that love to come and stay with some of the children overnight or for weekends.

In Biggies we have William Bear.

William has been with us for a while and has been on many adventures to many different places. He does like to be kept busy and loves to be outdoors but is equally happy just cuddled up and look at books or watch a movie.



In Kangas a new friend has just waddled in called Buster Duck.

Buster has only just come to Churchdown and so is still getting used to all the new faces. He will be spending a few nights with the staff in the room to help him settle and then he will be joining children on their adventures at home.

