

B W Montessori Nursery School Newsletter

January 2012



Happy New Year! Welcome back- we hope that you have had a fantastic Christmas break. We are looking forward to the new term and settling in to our routines again. Many thanks for all our wonderful gifts, cards and support with all the busy Christmas festivities. As you can see from the picture the children gave a wonderful performance in our school nativity, and a big thank you to you all for coming along to support them.

Staff news

Miss Emma and Miss Mae will be studying on a Monday at Winchester University for their degree in Early Years.

Miss Lorraine will be teaching cookery on a Tuesday.

Miss Danielle will be attending Peter Symonds University on a Tuesday where she is studying for her degree in Early Years.

Miss Sheila will be back on Wednesday the 18th January for French.

Miss Joanna will be with us every Friday morning teaching Art to the children.

All the staff will be attending training over this term with Hampshire county Council to update their qualifications.

Activities- Topic Work

We will be carrying on with our topic of exploring plants and flowers for the rest of this term. In Art miss Joanna will be working alongside our topic by looking at colours, bark rubbings, textures of different flowers and leaves etc. We will also be making 3D models of plants and flowers and using clay to create and sculpt with.

This topic will also be incorporated within our classroom where we can use leaves to transfer with and flower arrange.

In the cultural area we will be using terminology cards to match and explore different species of flowers. Within the sensorial area of the classroom we can colour match using some beautiful photos that one of our parents (who is a keen photographer and sells much of his work) has kindly given us for our topic.

We are going to grow herbs and plants on window boxes around the classroom, this topic is extensive and we always welcome any ideas or resources that you may have.

During your child's time at Montessori they have access to all areas of the classroom both inside and out, materials are changed weekly and according to each child's individual needs. The children love to care for their environment and are given every opportunity to do this, we also have snack available for the children at all times, they have the choice of fruit, cereal, bread and crackers. The children love to wash up after themselves and have great confidence with using real crockery.

All allergies are adhered to at all times.

Sound Box

Every week we look at a letter/sound from the alphabet. The list is always put outside on the board to let you know which sound we are currently looking at.

The children really enjoy bringing in things for the sound box and they love to show their

peers at circle time.

It is wonderful for the children to taste new fruits and food, so if your child would like to bring something in to share please feel free. Please see the attached phonics list that we use to make our sounds. Our sound the week commencing the 16th January is “P”.

Birthdays

We like to celebrate a child’s birthday on or near the actual day. We have a little ceremony, using photographs of the birthday child at 0,1,2,3, etc to show how he/she has changed over time. We hope that the child can bring in and share a cake or cakes with all the children and those parents can come in and join in (half an hour before the end of the session). This celebration increases self-esteem, encourages a sense of being part of a group, introduces the concept of time passing (history), covers a little bit of science and geography (use of the globe), reinforces our own cultural traditions, encourages sharing and social skills, teaches other children that we all pass through the same developmental stages, and probably a lot more besides- all from a simple birthday! Please liaise with us on the best day for your child’s celebration. If it falls within a holiday period, we like to celebrate as near to the date as we can.

Child Profiles

Please can we have back your child’s profile ready for the new term, please feel free to write any comments in them or talk to us if you have any concerns.

Fees

Please can we have all invoices paid **within the first two weeks of term**, if you have any worries or concerns please talk to us. In the unlikely event that an invoice is incorrect-for example where sessions have been increased or lunches added, let us know and we will amend the bill accordingly. Many thanks for your attention in this matter.

Please see the attached term dates for the academic year.

Sessions

Please note that our daily opening time is 9am, but for an additional £2.75 we will be offering an earlier start time of 8.45am. We have provided this service due to popular demand as we understand that there may be times when you need to make an appointment or fulfil other commitments.

If you would like to take advantage of this service, please speak to a member of staff and we will be happy to accommodate you.

Lost property

Please could you endeavour to label your children’s property, and check the lost property box.

Our cloakroom is very small and often bags and shoes get mixed up and taken home by the wrong child! This can be very distressing for the children involved. We also encourage the children to bring in items for the sound box, and are happy for the children to have comfort blankets/objects but we do seem to be getting lots of toys being brought in, which we try to discourage as we have lots of materials for the children to play/work with. And when these toys get misplaced it can again cause great distress. So if you could please discourage your child, or link the toy our sound box, we would be very grateful.

We do appreciate your help in this matter.

Please remember that if you have concerns or queries about anything to do with your children then we are always available

School mobile 07729864034