

# *B W Montessori Nursery School Newsletter*

## *September 2010*

*Welcome to a new academic year, we hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break.*

*Over the beginning of this autumn term we are re-establishing the ground rules and how to use the materials in the practical life area. The ground rules include walking and talking in the classroom, correct use of tables and chairs, greetings and goodbyes, use of materials and mats, independent snack and lunch routines, and general social skills such as listening, sharing, turn taking, not interrupting etc. We obviously practise these all year but have found that establishing a strong foundation from the beginning is the key to later success.*

*This all sounds very strict but, believe it or not, we have lots of fun with the rules and the children really do like to know how to do things properly. We have also found that this approach leads to a calm atmosphere in the classroom and the children can take their time to acclimatise. Particularly the new children that have joined us this term, as for some it is their first experience of being apart from*

*mum/dad. We want them to have a happy positive experience.*

### *Staff news*

*We would like to welcome Caroline Turner to our team at Bishops Waltham. Caroline's son attended Bishops Waltham Montessori and Caroline holds her level two Montessori teaching certificate. She will undertake further training throughout the academic year to further her qualifications and will also be attending regular Hampshire County Council training courses.*

*Caroline has worked at Wickham Montessori for the last three years, and is transferring across to Bishops Waltham due to the sad news that Miss Sarah will not be returning to us, due to personal circumstances. She has promised to stay in touch and we wish her all the best and she will be sorely missed.*

*Miss Lorraine will be holding her marvellous cookery lessons on a Tuesday, which the children love and are able to join in from start to finish. They are also of course able to eat their finished product and take home!*

*Miss Sheila will be attending on a Wednesday morning for her French lessons.*

*Miss Danielle will be holding a music class every Thursday afternoon. During the summer term she attended a music seminar, which provided her with lots of*

*great ideas on promoting music in the early years, building on listening skills and of course allowing the children freedom of expression through music.*

*Miss Emma will be attending Winchester University on a Thursday and on this day if you require any help or information it will be dealt with by Miss Lorraine.*

*We would also like to welcome Miss Lucy who is a student at Eastleigh College. She will be doing her work placement with us throughout the academic year. She will be spending one week with us and one week at college, and we look forward to her joining us and teaching her the Montessori ethos throughout her time with us.*

### **Topic**

*Over this whole academic year we have decided to explore the topic of festivals and celebrations throughout the world. We will be able to look at stories related to different celebrations and events, also be able to create some wonderful art and craft activities. We can make and taste food from different country celebrations such as Chinese food at their New Year celebrations and Christmas pudding for our traditional English celebrations. This topic incorporates music, dance, language, knowledge and understanding of the world. All of these activities can also be linked within our classroom on a daily basis.*

*If any parents would like to contribute or help out within our topic over the year then please just let us know. We really would love parental involvement even if you wish to come in at the end or beginning of a session to read a story.*

### **Session requests**

*Please let a member of staff know if you wish to increase your session over the year, or indeed have your child stay to lunch. Lunches get very busy and it is always best to know in advance because numbers are limited.*

### **Phonics**

*We use the Sandpaper letters for teaching the sounds and we invite the child to use the first two fingers of their writing hand to trace the letter correctly. This helps them to repeat the correct pattern when using a pencil. No child is forced to do literacy work - and it is damaging to the child to introduce it before they are ready. Children who read and write at too early an age often plateau at aged 7/8 and can lose momentum. Please see the attached phonic sound sheet that we work with within the Montessori curriculum.*

### **Sound Box**

*To support individual work, we have a sound box for group work. This covers one phonetic sound a week, starting*

*with "a". We will follow the alphabet sequence each week, please see the notice board outside informing you of the letter/sound of that week. We encourage the children to bring one object to their first session of the week and take it home after the last session of the week.*

*We play games with the objects whilst learning the sound. If items can be marked as to the ownership then please do so. If an object can be eaten, we would all like to eat it!*

### **Wickham Montessori news**

*Over the summer term we moved premises from the Methodist church in Wickham to Park Place Pastoral centre which is also situated in Wickham. Park Place has provided us with a secure outside play area, a light and airy classroom and the use of woodland walks and fields to explore.*

*The location is a wonderful place for the children to grow, learn and develop with plenty of open space and nature.*

*Term dates are attached to the newsletter for the academic year.*

*Please remember that at any time you wish to talk to us regarding anything whatsoever then just ask a member of staff or alternatively call the school phone on 07729864034.*

*Emma & Liz*