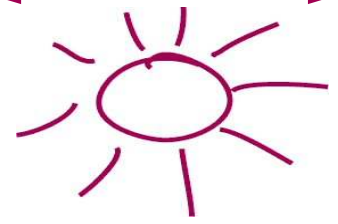


Summer 2016



Smisbydaynurserynewsletter

Staff News

Exciting News!

Sonia is expecting a baby (If you had not already guessed!)

We are all so excited and can't wait to meet him/her sometime near the end of November.

Sonia has looked after so many babies in her 17 years at nursery and we know she is going to be an expert and wonderful Mummy.

Sonia's partner Dan has had to look after her during her first few months of pregnancy as she has been so sick. She is now through the worst and blossoming beautifully.

The only difficulty she has now is in picking a name - she wants something original, but after 17 years at the Nursery that is going to be difficult!

Here is the latest scan picture showing the newest member of our Smisby Family.

This is now the eighteenth baby born to staff since Ian and I took over the Nursery. We are starting to feel like grandparents!



Leaving us....

Heather, who is currently on her second tour of Duty, is to leave us again. This time she is off to work with her mum in a new business venture. We wish them both all the best for the future and hope it goes well for them.

Promotion

Because of Heather's departure and the fact that Saira is taking on a more hands on Deputy role in support of Sonia we have promoted Cassie to take over the running of Toddler Room from Heather. Cassie, (another returner!), is already settled into Toddler Room and cannot wait to get her teeth into the new role. We are extremely pleased to see Cassie taking on this role - it is well deserved.

Welcome (back!) to the team

Laura Redfern, who previously was the head of Baby Room and had been with us for nearly six years, has always expressed a wish to return to the Nursery if a suitable role came up. Now that chance has occurred and she will be rejoining us in the September as Maternity cover Officer in Charge whilst Sonia is off.

Both Saira and Sonia are preparing for her start and the long handover process of the role, but fortunately Laura knows most of the Nursery workings inside out.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our lovely Ashleigh and Zak who were married on Sunday



17th April. They had a beautiful day and I hope you will join us in wishing them all the very best for their future together.

Qualifications

A massive WELL DONE to Nicola Abell for gaining her BA Honours degree in Child and Youth Studies. We are all so very proud of Nicola as she has studied so long and hard to get this qualification.



Abijay has also just completed her level three qualification. Well done Abijay, we are all proud of you.



An Inspector Calls!

It was no surprise that Ofsted were due to call, and on the morning of Wednesday 20th July they rang the bell.

After the horror of the last inspection this was a very different affair.

We had two HMI Inspectors, neither of whom were Early Years experienced, but they were very thorough.

Below is the majority of the Ofsted report. The full report can be found on Ofsted's website. Their parting words were that we were the "Top end of Good and we should be very proud of the Nursery!"

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

The nursery is a place where children can explore and find out about the world through a variety of interesting and fun activities. Children feel secure and valued by the staff. As a result, children have strong attachments to their key workers and thrive in the caring atmosphere.

Parents are positive about their children's nursery. Parents say their children are happy and well cared for and make good progress in learning.

The nursery leaders and staff team are passionate about providing a safe, nurturing and enjoyable learning environment. Children are relaxed and happy. Children play well together and share their learning with each other and the adults who care

for them.

Children enjoy the wide variety of opportunities to 'get messy'. Whether this is outside in the water or in the baby room covered in cornflour paste and paint. Chances to explore and 'find out' abound in the nursery. Children are confident and unafraid to experiment and learn as a result.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

ensure adults challenge the oldest most-able children so that they make the accelerated progress they should, particularly in writing and phonics

ensure outcomes for different groups and cohorts are tracked more closely so that leaders know where to target plans for improvement more precisely

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The setting is led by highly committed and determined proprietors and nursery managers. Together with the staff team, they ensure the nursery is a harmonious and welcoming place for young children to learn and grow. Leaders ensure staff are well trained to care for the welfare and learning of children. Leaders check the effectiveness of training through careful monitoring and act quickly to resolve weaknesses. As a result, the quality of teaching has improved. Leaders have taken decisive action since

the last inspection to improve the areas for development. This has resulted the appropriate sharing of children's learning and welfare needs among the staff. As a result, children at Smisby make good progress in learning. Safeguarding is a high priority, leaders ensure staff adhere to the clear systems for child protection. Leaders are quick to contact the appropriate external agencies should concerns arise.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Adults plan carefully to meet the learning needs of children across the early learning goals. Planning for learning is shared so that every adult knows what each child's next steps are. Children's newly gained skills are consolidated well in the variety activities children enjoy both indoors and outside. For example, in the baby room, cornflour and water provided endless fun and opportunities for talking and sharing. Babies, adults and the inspector were all covered in the mixture. Older children learn to listen and engage in stories because the adults make story time a pleasure. One group of toddlers sat intently listening to a story about elephants. Adults are skilled in asking questions that support children's critical thinking skills as well their communication and literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

In all areas of the nursery,

including the baby room, children play and learn together in harmony. Staff model appropriate behaviour, manners and ways of speaking. This results in children treating each other in the same way. Staff manage the occasional 'fall out' or temper tantrum appropriately and sensitively in line with the nursery's behaviour policy. The family atmosphere was best seen in the way children ate lunch together. The oldest children served themselves, chatted happily together and helped each other clear away afterwards.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points. However, the most able children are not always challenged to develop their skills quickly enough and as a result, in early phonics and writing skills they do not reach the levels they are capable of. Nursery assessment data for individual children and the work in their learning journals show children working securely within the range typical for their age. Children make particularly strong progress in their personal and social development. Children develop good vocabulary and express themselves eloquently when speaking with each other and the adults. Opportunities to develop creativity are abundant. As a result, children's skills in managing equipment such as scissors or sticky tape are well developed by the time they leave the nursery.

Notice Board

Mobile Phones

Just a reminder to all parents that Mobile Phones are prohibited within the black gates of the nursery. This is both a safeguarding issue and a courtesy one. Anyone found using their mobile phone when dropping off or collecting children will be asked to cease their call. It is very important that we have the opportunity to discuss any issues with you at the beginning and end of the day and we would request your full attention for the handover please.

Electronic Invoices

We have upgraded our nursery accounts software and office computer which now enables us to email your invoices and saves on stationery. We hope this will be a much better system and no longer puts the onus on parents to check for bills in the drawers.

If you have not already, please complete the email form and return to us as soon as possible. Please

let us know if you experience any problems.

Safeguarding - Important reminders

All children MUST be handed over to a member of staff. It is not acceptable to drop children off in the car park or at the gate. Smisby Day Nursery and Smiz Kids have strict safeguarding policies and guidelines. Parents are responsible for their children up until the point of handover to a member of staff.

Can you help?

We are always on the look out for spare clothes/underwear for all those little accidents as we send children home in Nursery clothes, and they quite often do not come back to us. Please can you all check if you have any nursery clothes and return them if you can. We are currently short of trousers and skirts in Smiz kids for ages about 5 to 7.

We also use a lot of towels as we do so much water



play, especially outside in the warm weather. If you have any towels which you are not using but have plenty of life left in them we would be happy to take them off your hands!



Please shut the Gates!

It is of the utmost importance that Parents close the gates after themselves. Please help us to keep your little ones safe by being responsible for their safety at all times when dropping off and collecting them.

FREE!



Did you know that the Post Office is offering FREE life insurance for parents with children under the age of 4?

If you type in the following link, or have a search online www.postoffice.co.uk/life-insurance/free-parent-life-cover, you can find out a lot more.

Each parent can get one year's free life cover for £15,000 per child. That means you can both have £15,000 of cover EACH for EVERY child under 4.

Now obviously it is marketing for the Post Office for their Life Assurance policies but there is nothing to pay up front and no banking details collected so it is an opt in rather than an opt out at the end.

Whilst this may seem like it is a little bit morbid it is worth knowing about.

Grant

As many of you will be aware the grant is a bit complicated. Louise has a huge job in trying to administer it all and needs everyone's co-operation. If you are claiming grant please ensure that you:

- 1) Completed your grant form
- 2) Have provided us with a copy of you child's birth certificate
- 3) Keep to your hours if you are only using Grant funded spaces
- 4) Keep us informed of any holidays and days off to enable us to complete tracking records for SDCC

Photo Books

We have now received a few photo books for the children and those that have them are enjoying sharing them with their friends and staff.



Guess who these two reprobates are?

We feel that these are really important, and almost all of the staff have now done theirs, to talk

about extended life outside of Nursery.

Please send in a few photo's of your child and their family etc so we can laminate them and build them into a little booklet and have these in the room to promote meaningful conversations and share in your child's world outside the nursery.

If you need the pictures back we can scan them.

Celebrating our Leavers



On Thursday 30th June we held a morning cream tea for Pre-school parents. Included in this we

celebrated our leavers with a little ceremony where children were presented with a goody bag and a framed certificate.

Many parents came along and had a lovely time on the day.

We want to officially thank those families leaving us for letting us be a part of your children's lives. We have loved them and taught them as if they were our own and it is bitter sweet to see

them go. Although children never truly leave us. Many of the children are off to school and just moving over to the Smizkids building!

We still reminisce about past children, and look at old photographs whilst recalling some of the funny moments.



Illness

We are very aware of the pressure placed on parents when children are poorly and have to work. We want to reassure parents that we do not send children home without good reason. However every child, when they are unwell, just want to be with their mum and dad and do not want to be in the Nursery.

Illness within a nursery can spread quickly, as those who have witnessed Chicken Pox making the rounds will testify. We must ensure that we do all we can to contain any spread of illness. Toys and equipment are cleaned regularly and if we have outbreaks of particular illnesses we have a protocol which ensures toys are sterilised and carpets are deep cleaned.

We would just like to ask you all to review the Exclusion policy relating to illnesses in the policies booklet for parents., which is in the main entrance.

We cannot accept children in the Nursery who are dependent on Paracetamol or Ibuprofen to keep their temperature down. If your child is on prescription medication we will need to have the original prescription label on the outside of the medication so that we can administer any medication to your child. This may seem common sense to you, but you would not believe the requests, and demands, that have been made of us in the past, including the sharing of prescribed medicines.

Thank you for your understanding.

Chicks

We took delivery of some chicks from Tesco as part of a project they run for schools with "The Happy Chick Company" back in June. The children loved watching them



hatch and grow over the next two weeks.

This has led to some funny and sometimes quite deep

discussions.

Fortunately at the time to hand back everything to Tesco's a neighbour, who keeps chickens in the field next to Toddlers, stepped in and volunteered to continue to raise them so they went to a new home

Garden News

We are slowly getting there with the garden. The turf has now been laid and grass seed in the other patches and it has all taken well. The children are now back to using the whole garden and loving it. However it has taken a bit of a battering with the amount of time we have spent outside this summer. Autumn and



winter, and a bit of TLC from Noel, our gardener, should see it make a full recovery!

Wildlife

We are very lucky to have such a lovely outside area overlooking horses and chickens. We have had many visits from a family of Pheasants. The children were making their own fat ball feeders and no sooner did they put them

out they were being devoured by the pheasants. The children have loved watching them and their funny ways. Unfortunately Ian is not so pleased as they were very partial to the grass seed!

The children are using binoculars to look at the birds in the garden and the fields.

Basket Ball Nets

We have also added 3 basket ball nets at varying heights so that all children can have some fun shooting hoops!