



Smiz Kid¹ New¹



Smiz Kids 511 Newsletter

Summer 2016

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 expectant 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. Congratulations Cassie.

Welcome (back!) to the team

Laura Redfern, a name many of you will remember, 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



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.

Facebook

Our new Facebook page has been a huge success with lots of news on it. If you have not already found it please search for Smisby Day Nursery and follow the page to get all the news.

We would love more feedback from parents of Smizkids so feel free to write a review at the same time.



Summer Holiday Club

The summer holiday club was packed with activities chosen by the children.

Unfortunately the pool at Ashby School was closed over the whole summer which means this is the first year in the last twelve years that we have not run swim week - we are as gutted as the children about this! However we will be back with it next year.



Smizkids have had an amazing summer, with lots of exciting trips and activities.

They have paddled at Marketon Park, ridden roller coasters at Twinlakes, been on a hike with Ian where they spotted deer and a kingfisher and even had a whole week of cooking activities where they made a tasty macaroni cheese for their lunch and delicious fruit kebabs for pudding. Here is what some of our smiz kids said about our summer club

Elise: I loved coming to play with my friends in the garden and making pottery from the clay was good.

Jessica: I liked going to Twinlakes and going on the log flume with Nic.

Phoebe: The rollercoaster at Twinlakes was cool.



Neve: I loved all of the summer at Smizkids it was lots of fun

Demi: I enjoyed making our own ice cream.

Beth: I enjoyed the hike with Ian and falling into the hay. It was really fun!

Sam: I enjoyed painting the soldiers. (See below)

We are always on the lookout for new things to do and following on from the long walk

Ian did with the kids and the camping demonstration he did it was suggested that maybe next summer we could continue this theme with more things like map reading and walks with a camping out night with parents and children in the back garden with Ian and Sheila. We could only do this if it was a free fun family event, rather than Smizkids looking after the children, because of the constraints on our registration. We could even persuade Ian to do one of his BBQ's at the same time! Anyone think this is a good idea?



Somme: En masse

Nicola wanted to do a particular project with the children this summer.

Smizkids had an amazing opportunity to take part in an art project taking place at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) called **Somme: En Masse**. The children were invited to decorate wooden soldiers which would then be placed in the ground as a tribute to the 19,240 British soldiers who lost their lives on the first day of the battle of the Somme.



After talking to the children about the NMA and answering their many questions about why we have memorials and what the NMA was, Smizkids decided that they would like to have a cake sale to raise money for the soldiers. As a result they baked cakes and raised £36 which they donated when they visited the NMA to hand over their decorated soldiers. The children were met by Kathryn Rogerson, the organiser of the art project. She was very touched by the children's fundraising efforts and took the children to meet the artist. The children were able to ask many questions about the soldiers and they spoke in length about their art work.

On 6th September Nicola received the following as part of an email from

K a t h r y n Rogerson:

"Hi Nicola,

I just wanted to say a massive thank you for all your help with the soldiers and with the bake sale, we were all really touched that your group did that.

All your soldiers looked amazing, I'm very impressed with the talent of our younger participants. I know Julie Thompson the artist was very pleased to have met everyone on the day as well.

We are still sorting through the schedule for the 18th November but I will let you know as soon as we have the official timings, it would be lovely if you could come on the day and see the



installation complete.

It would also be lovely to share your story in this project, so if you have any images from the day that we would be able to use via Facebook and Twitter would it be possible to send them across to me.

Thanks again and hopefully see you in November."

The art project is in place until Feb 2017 at the NMA if you would like to go along with your children and see it.



Smiz Kids have been writing letters to people they are interested in. We have all been anxiously waiting and Henry was the first to get a reply from FC Barcelona with a letter and a poster. Well done Henry we hope your poster takes pride of place in your bedroom.

Next, many of the children wrote and sent pictures to Her Majesty The Queen for her 90th Birthday. They all signed the letter and did a variety of colourful pictures and they were duly packaged



up and put in the post. On the 2nd July they got a very important letter from Buckingham Palace and they were very excited to open it. There was a lovely letter and a card from Her Majesty The



Queen thanking them for their pictures and letter.

Fabulous! Well done kids, we are so proud of you all.



It's not that long ago that the summer holidays finished and we are already looking forward to our holiday club in October half term. There's plenty of fun and messy activities to keep the children busy and smiling.

First of all the Holiday Club will have an extra day. Friday 14th October is an inset day for all the schools in Ashby, so we are running an extra day to help parents.

We have a return visit to the National Arboretum to see our beautifully painted soldiers in the art installation. The children will be making some gingerbread soldiers to take with them.

The children will also have a fun slumber party day where pyjamas and crazy hair will feature as well as popcorn and DVD's, all chilled out on the comfy cushions.

Wacky Races day will be a fun day of building a boat or a car and then racing them to see who will be the winners. Team work and imaginative thinking will be important.

We will round the week off with a trip to The National Forest Adventure Farm. This is a favourite with our children as there is so much to do. They will be running a Spooktacular event which will see the children picking pumpkins, learning to ride broomsticks as well as getting to see all the friendly animals that live there.

So we have a lot of activities planned, but we always welcome any suggestions from the children or parents for future clubs. There is a form that the staff can give you to complete if you, or your family members, have ideas or suggestions.

 Notices

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 materials in the Junk modelling. If you have anything that is unusual, and safe, that we can use for Junk Modelling please let us know. Years ago we were given a load of spray paints that Megan is using to paint tyres. Recycling at its best!

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 everyone's safety at all times when dropping off and collecting them. Thank you.

Chicks

We took delivery of some chicks from Tesco as part of a project they run for schools with "The Happy Chick Company"



at the end of June. The children loved watching 9 of the 10 eggs 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 offered to continue to raise them so they went to a new home next door!

The children went to see



how the 9 chickens were doing at the start of September when the chickens were 10 weeks old. They had been raised in a separate compound from the other chickens and are now nearly fully grown!

Dates

Smizkids have a lot of things coming up in the next few holiday clubs.

First of all as mentioned before the Half Term Club is running from **Friday 14th October until Friday 21st October** inclusive. This was a club planned by the kids so has a lot of variety in it.

The Christmas club will run from **Mon 19th to Fri 23rd Dec** and **Tues 3rd Jan 2017**.

Ofsted

The Nursery newsletter and website have the full report on our inspection but here are some of the comments in the report.

"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.

We are so proud of the Staff. The effort they put into caring for the children every day shows.

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.

Wildlife

We are very lucky to have such a lovely outside area overlooking horses and chickens. More recently we have had a visit from a family of Pheasants. The children have been making their own fat ball feeders and no sooner do they put them out they are being devoured by the pheasants. The children have loved watching them and their funny ways. Unfortunately Ian is not so pleased as they were partial to the grass seed!



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

Bird Boxes

Smiz kids enjoyed learning about, and making, bird boxes with Ian in the half term holiday club and we have now put these around the garden. The children made various types of boxes including, Robin, Wren, Tits and Wagtails.

building which the children can put sugar water in to encourage bees etc.



The bird boxes were put up too late to attract birds this year but we are hopeful that they will be used next year.

Basket Ball Nets

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

Each group of children decorated their bird boxes and wrote their names on the back.

Ian also put an insect box and bee feeder on the

