

Autumn 2005



Smisbydaynurserynewsletter



Staff Changes

We have some big changes in the staffing this month.

First of all, Nikki has decided to step down as Officer in Charge to become Part time Deputy Officer in Charge in order to spend more time at home with her family.

Secondly Sandy will step up to Officer in charge from Deputy.

Finally Katie will be coming back after her maternity leave at the end of October to work part time alongside Nikki as Deputy.

Welcome back Katie - we missed you!

Katie will be working Monday and Tuesday all day and Wednesday 8am to 1.30 pm. Nikki will be working Wednesday 12.30 to 6pm and all day Thursday and Friday. Both will be based in babies and will be joint head of baby room.

This was obviously a big, and difficult, decision for Nikki to make, as she has been OIC for nearly 10 of the 15 years she has been at the nursery.

It was not a decision she took lightly, and was fully supported by both Ian and Sheila during the process.

Nikki said "I now think it is

time for me to spend a little more time at home with my children. This opportunity came up and although I will miss my role as OIC I am handing over all responsibility to Sandy, who is a well loved member of staff and who will be able to take on this role easily." She added "The decision was made much easier knowing Sandy would take over."

Nikki said she felt the transition would be smooth as she will still be around. She also felt that between the three of them they would work well and closely as a team.

Congratulations Sandy - a well deserved promotion.

Ian said "Nikki has spent many weeks thinking about this decision, and whilst it was not my first choice decision as I wanted her to stay as Officer in Charge, I understand and support her 100% in her decision. On the other hand I am so pleased that Sandy has accepted the role of Officer in Charge - she is such a popular member of the team and will be able to do such a good job in time"

Saira Stephenson will now be working full time hours in the baby room, 9 – 5pm.

Linda Blythe, who was our cleaner at the nursery, will

now be joining the care team and working in the toddler room 12 – 6 every day.

Welcome to our new cleaner Louise Jinks who will be starting 17th October working 5.30 – 7.30 Monday to Friday. Linda will spend a couple of weeks with Louise to make sure the handover is smooth.

Welcome to Laura Emery who has joined us as a modern apprentice student studying NVQ3 in child care. Laura is not new to us as she joined us last year as a cleaner and has worked part time in holidays in the Nursery until eventually she decided she wanted to stay with us! She will be based in the pre-school room throughout her training working 8.30 to 5.30 but will be at college on Thursdays.

Catherine Massie has decided that she will not be returning to her old job now that her maternity leave has finished. She has asked to be kept on as bank/relief staff to help us out when we have staff shortages.

Finally we say goodbye to Eileen Maple. Eileen has been with the Nursery since February 2001 and she leaves us in November to sail off into retirement. Hopefully it will not be the last we see of her.



Welcome

This is our section where we welcome all the new children into the nursery since our last newsletter.

Welcome to you all and we hope you enjoy your stay with us

June

Ella Horwood BR
Tilly Brandrick BR

July

Thomas Hellier TR
Megan Boudewijns PS
Imogen Fox BR
Thomas Emery SK
Rani Parmar SK
Katherine Smith SK
Laurence Weston SK

August

Abbie Giffard BR
Emily Robinson PS
Jack Grace SK
Matthew Jones SK

September

Emma Crumley PS
Ellie Meadows TR
Ben Walker TR
Zachary Hannaghan SK

October

Kian Phillips BR

Special Mention

Charlotte Burdett and Lewis Crowley have moved from the nursery to Smiz Kids 511

Key

BR—Baby Room
TR—Toddler Room
PS—Pre School
SK—Smiz Kids



Training is key to any organisation that wishes to keep up to date and we are no exception. We have many staff undergoing training of one kind or another and in different ways.

Many of the staff are going off in the evenings one day a week at the moment for refreshers for their First Aid certificates. Rather than have some staff as qualified first aiders we want everyone to have a certificate.

Laura is a Modern Apprentice student doing an NVQ level 3 in childcare on day release on Thursdays. Rebecca, Denise, Catherine and Lisa are all doing an NVQ level 3 in childcare studying in their own time and attending night classes.

Denise was asked how things were going for her

at college.

She said "Going to college once a week gives me input from other settings and ideas that can then be incorporated into ours if they are useful.

I receive support and help with coursework, make new friends and have access to resources and books on the latest issues surrounding childcare."

She added "I enjoy the work and do it to improve myself personally and to help the children and the nursery by having lots of qualified staff members."

Rebecca had similar things to say. "The course enables me to exchange experiences with other people on the course.

Going to college one night a week allows me to learn all the principals of child care and the practical

experience at work helps me apply it and to complete the course work.

Doing the course at the same time as coming to work enables me to link practical and theory work together"

Stuart is currently searching for a course that will allow him to link all of his existing qualifications together under one umbrella qualification in playwork.

Short courses in everything from nutrition to child protection are done on a regular basis by many staff members to keep their skills up to date.

We are currently looking for a suitable NVQ level 4 course that will help the seniors in their role within the nursery. Unfortunately all the ones we have found involve 2 days a week on day release for 2 years!



Birthdays come but once a year, so here we take time to congratulate you all.

Children

October

Oliver Baker (4)
Emily Young (2)
Reuben Betts (3)
Imogen Fox (1)

November

Abbie Giffard (1)
Balpreet Kang (4)
Joshua Rudkin (3)
Georgina Turton (3)
Charlotte Flynn (3)

December

Ella Horwood (1)
Katie Russell (2)

January

Anna Mansfield (1)
Molly Crowley (4)
Holly Beaumont (3)
Ethan Tweddle (4)
Joe Tweddle (4)
Archie McNamee (3)
Lorna Brierly (4)
Charlie Massie (3)
William Slack (3)
Joel Beedle (4)

February

Caitlin Walters (2)
Ben Walker (2)

Staff

Dawn	16 th Oct
Sonia	30 th Nov
Marlene	8 th Dec
Karah	9 th Dec
Anne	27 th Jan
Debby	29 th Jan
Cassie	30 th Jan
Bev B	2 nd Feb
Laura	12 th Feb
Sandy	18 th Feb
Liz	25 th Feb

I can't possibly print their date of birth as some of us are positively ancient!!!!!!

Although I think they have been telling me tales. They all said they were 21 - again...



A man about the place!

Stuart Birt has been with the nursery since Easter, working in Smiz Kids 511. Since September he has been working mornings in pre-school and afternoons at Smiz kids.

All parents who come in at lunch time will enjoy, as we do, the sight of this tall young man sitting on a small chair eating his lunch hunched over a little table. Stuart has already commented on how he has had to improve his table manners to be an example to the children and the scratch marks of using a knife and fork are fading slowly.

Ian is particularly pleased

that Stuart is now full time with the organisation. "Finding men who want to work in this type of environment is difficult. Stuart had some anxieties with working with the pre-school children but has fitted in so easily in the room and will hopefully give the children a positive male role model."

Stuart has been putting his sporting skills to good use with Preschoolers. They have enjoyed relay races (although some practice is required, especially as most children won't share the bean bag!), obstacle courses and dribbling circuits. Stuart is even thinking of organising a

sports day next summer for our budding athletes.

We asked Stuart how he felt he was settling in and what it was like to be working in a predominantly female environment. He replied "I have found I get all the good jobs, like reaching for things off high shelves and carrying heavy objects".

Stuart is learning new skills and fits in well with the team. We have found the children are very fond of him and have fully embraced him into pre-school life.

Welcome to the nursery Stuart - we hope you enjoy your stay with us.



Charity Event 1

On a scorching hot Sunday in July "Smisybusybees" made their debut as our very own running/walking team!!

We entered the 5km Race for Life and raised £797.00 for Cancer Research.

We completed the course in 45 mins with smiles on our faces, and pride in our hearts that we had done something to help.

Walking and running around the course gave us time to read some of the messages people had



written on the back of their shirts naming the people they were walking on behalf of. It was a moving occasion in many ways for a lot of us.

Thank you to all who entered and to parents that sponsored us as well as Office Depot for supplying us with the transfer sheets for our T shirts.



Charity Event 2

Anyone for Coffee?

September 16th was the opening of our very own coffee shop for "Yummy Mummy" week.

Organised by Bev B in the kitchen many staff gave up a few hours of their time to help her with the venture.

We set up our coffee shop in Smisby Village Hall for 2 hours, selling a wide



selection of homemade cakes, hot drinks and homemade preserves and invited everyone in the local community to come in and visit us. Many people came in and had a cup of coffee and a chat.

The children at nursery paid £1 to wear blue or pink. We had a raffle and drawing competition.

The proceeds were £204.05, which were donated to **Clic Sargent**, a charity which provides care and support for children and families dealing with childhood cancer.

Again a big thank you for your support, especially Bev for all the cake making.



Forthcoming Charity Events

Children in need – Friday 18th November

This year for a £1 donation you can come to nursery dressed in Hawaiian theme. Get your grass skirts/ garlands and beach wear out and laugh your coconuts off at the staff!!!

Operation Christmas Child

Once again we will be



running the shoe box campaign. Nikki and Katie will be the co-ordinators and you should have all received a leaflet explaining what to do with your shoe box and what



you can fill it with. You need to enclose your cheque for £2 (per box) and return it to Katie or Nikki.

We will let you know when they need to be in by.

Dates



Children's Christmas Parties

Tuesday 20th December Babies and Toddlers.

Wednesday 21st December Pre-school disco – all children welcome.

Nursery closure dates

The nursery will close on Friday 22nd December at 5pm. *(Please note the slightly early closing time)*

We will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2006 at 8am.

Smiz kids club dates

Christmas Club

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd December at 5pm *(Please note the early closing time)*

Half term Club

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February

Christingle



This years Christingle service will be held at 2pm on Sunday 4th Dec at St James Church Smisby.

We would appreciate it if all pre-school children could attend as they are currently very busy learning some carols to sing. If they could arrive at approximately 1.30pm this would help with getting organised at the church.

For those of you that attended the service last year I think you will agree that seeing the children's faces all lit up by the candles was a magical moment.

There will be refreshments afterwards at the village hall.

All monies raised will again go to the children's society.



Dear Parents,
I would like to introduce myself to you.

My name is Jasmine and I am the newest member of staff in the Pre School Room. I spend most of my time just sitting around watching the children have so much fun. However I get paid so little that I cannot afford to take a holiday at all - *Sob!*

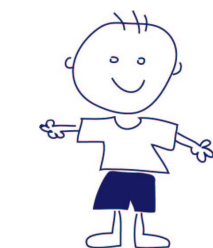
This is where you can help. I would love to come with you on your holidays and be able to have my picture taken with you, or your children on holiday so that I can show all the other children in Pre School what different places all around the world look like.

Don't worry, I am potty trained, I already have my suitcase ready - just in case, and I don't take up much room at all. I sleep through the night and am not fussy about what I eat.

Because I am a Giraffe (*just in case you did not notice!*) I do not need sun cream and because I was reared in captivity I am used to people. Having said that, have you seen what 26 children together in Pre school look like sometimes - it is worse than being in the zoo like my mum!

I look forwards to meeting you soon,

Love Jasmine XXXX



Toddler Room

Month	Themes	Colour	Activities
September	Animals	Spots / Stripes	Zoo / Circus
October	Animals	Black	Autumn / Halloween
November	Christmas	White	TV Characters / Bonfire Night
December	Christmas	Gold / Silver	Christmas / Printing

Pre School Room

Month	Colour	Shape	Letter	Number	Topic
September	Brown	Hexagon	f, p, k, e	1, 2, 3, 4	Understanding Materials
October	Grey	Rectangle	l, j, b, u, q	5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Opposites
November	Silver	Star	r, x, z, c	10, odd, even, 1	Winter
December	Gold	Star	a, d, h	2, 3, 4	Christmas

Announcements

Congratulations to Debby (Pre School) and Scott on the safe arrival of Corey, born on Wednesday 28th September weighing in at a whopping 9lb 4 oz. A little brother for Thomas.

Mr and Mrs Haines on the birth of baby Sam, a little brother for Bethan.

Mr and Mrs Pacey on the birth of David, a little brother for Rachel.

Mr and Mrs Longstaff on the birth of Adam, a brother for James.

Mr and Mrs Smith on the birth of Rosie, a sister for Billy and Charlie.

Congratulations to Heather

(Baby Room) and Steve who are expecting their first child in May 2006. Well done you two, we will keep you posted on the morning sickness, which seems to be lasting all day at the moment, and the health of mum and baby!

Can someone pass Heather the Ginger Nuts please!

Going, Going, Gone.....!

We would like to say a fond farewell to all of our pre-schoolers that have left to go to school or will be leaving us at the end of this term.

We wish you all the best of luck and hope you have

a great time at school:

Already left
Hannah Adams
Spike Fearn
James Lockett
Ellie Taylor
Ellie Edwards
Billy Smith

Lewis Crowley
Oliver Heenan
Ciara Bassett

Going at Christmas
Kyle Willis
Ellie Pidcock
Sophie Crawford