

Kirktonholme @ The Owl and the Pussycat January/February 2012 Newsletter

0-2 room

A warm welcome to all new families in our baby room. We hope your time with us will be enjoyable and productive. Staff are concentrating on bonding with new babies and building positive relationships with parents and extended families.

In line with the Pre-Birth to Three document, staff will provide an environment aimed at promoting and developing literacy and numeracy awareness through activities such as storytelling, nursery rhymes, mark making, colour recognition games and counting songs. All activities are highlighted on the daily information sheet with an area for your input on activities you and your child are involved in at home. The earliest years of a child's life lay the important foundations for learning therefore we feel it is imperative that we work as a team in providing the best possible start in your child's education.



We firmly believe in providing children with natural resources to enable them to develop curiosity, co-ordination and their five senses. To that end staff will be developing the treasure basket and heuristic materials. If you have questions about any of the above, please speak to a member of staff who will be only too glad to help.

2-3 room

Due to the hustle and bustle over the festive period, we are just now able to revisit our animal floor book. Children are showing lots of interest and are eager to experience new animal based activities.

Could we ask for photographs of family pets to help link nursery to home. This enables your child to feel ownership and experience pride in their environment.



Children will be using their imagination and expressing their ideas by making clay models of their pet (don't be concerned if you do not have a pet as we will also be observing our own goldfish in nursery). We will also be learning how to care for wildlife by making bird food for the birds in the garden and down by the river Ayr.

During January we will further develop our talking bag whereby your child will have the opportunity to bring an object from home to show to and discuss with their friends. This activity helps promote communication, social skills and self esteem and is a further nursery/home link.

Parental feedback on our improved information sheet (daily diary) was very positive with comments all agreeing that the layout and information provided is relevant and easy to understand. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that, as the main educator in your child's life, it is very important that you use the space provided on the sheet to inform staff of any aspect of your child's development at home.

As we go outdoors every day, could you please provide suitable footwear, preferably wellingtons, as the predominant weather at the moment appears to be wind and rain.

Staff in the 2-3 room this term are Susanne (room supervisor), Lee-Ann, Lynn, Kirstin (trainee) and Sharlene on a part time basis (Wednesday and Thursday).

All new children have settled extremely well into their new routine.

3-5 Room

The ongoing topic of FOOD is developing with children using the internet and books to learn about foods from around the world. We were very fortunate to have a visit from a dairy farmer who demonstrated how milk and cheese are produced which links very nicely to our eco school project.



Further activities will include taste trays, cooking and celebrating Burns day on 25th January. We would like to invite parents or grandparents to share their baking or cooking skills with the children in a bid to further their understanding of how food is prepared.

This week saw the start of our 10week Gaelic programme with children learning basic words, phrases and songs. If you would be interested in supporting your child at home please ask staff for the weekly handout.

The lending library will commence on Wednesday 18th January giving you and your child the opportunity to borrow a book for 1 week.

Children this term sitting on the Eco School committee are Kenzie Nicholson, Gregor Russell and Katie Thomson. They have been looking at how we meet the criteria for litter control, health and wellbeing and food and the environment. We still need family or extended family to represent parents on the committee. This would entail meeting once every 2 months to set an action plan and assess how we are meeting targets. Please speak to a member of staff if you or a member of you family would be interested in joining our group.

General Information

Garden refurbishments:

Work has begun on developing the outdoor space. A drawing of the new layout is displayed in all rooms. Photographic evidence of the work in progress will be available as each step is complete. Feedback on proposed plan has been very positive with suggestions from children and parents providing strong foundations for the development.

Parent council:

The next parent council meeting will be in February. Date and time to be agreed.

Agenda will include:

- Policies and Procedures
- The centres improvement plan
- Parent's evenings
- Fundraising

Staff training

Staff training this term will include Child Protection, GIRFEC, ensuring challenge in literacy and numeracy, anti bullying, first aid and road safety. All the information gained will have a positive impact on children by ensuring staff have significant knowledge on current legislation.

Centres improvement plan

Two of the five targets in priority 1 have been met with the development of the outdoor area being number 3. Targets still to be met are staff development in science and exploring opportunities to access green spaces.

No targets have been met in priority 2 but will be addressed over the next two months.

All targets in priority 3 have been met.

All targets in priority 4 have been met.

All targets in priority 5 have been met.

A copy of the centres improvement plan is displayed in all rooms.