



Kintore Way Children's Centre
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Kintore Way Children's Centre Newsletter January 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Kintore Way after the Christmas/New Year break. We hope you all had a safe and enjoyable time and are looking forward to another exciting year. We are delighted to be able to tell you that Southwark's housing service will be coming into the centre soon to help with some of the issues faced by our families and baby massage sessions are also on their way. We also need your help to continue to offer the best possible service so we will also be inviting nominations for school governors and making our annual request for contributions to the School/Centre Fund. There is much to tell so please read on.

Sharon

Housing Service

Need advice about your housing situation?



From Monday 2nd February 2009, Southwark Council housing options services will be holding a weekly housing surgery every Monday from 1pm-3.30pm at Kintore Way Children's Centre, Grange Road, SE1 3BW.

If you have a housing issue and need advice, drop in and see an advisor. We may be able to help you with issues such as:

- ✓ **Your waiting or transfer list application**
- ✓ **Bidding on Southwark Homesearch**
- ✓ **Mutual exchanges and other mobility schemes**
- ✓ **Renting privately and problems with your landlord**
- ✓ **Shared ownership or buying a home**
- ✓ **Keeping your home if you are worried you may lose it**
- ✓ **Moving to a bigger or smaller home**

The service is FREE and confidential. Appointments are not necessary.

For further enquiries call us on 020 7525 5950.



Transfer to Primary School - URGENT

If you have a child born between 1st September 2004 and 31st August 2005 you must fill in a Common Application Form stating your choice of Primary School. These forms were given out by key workers last term and most of you will have already filled it in and sent it back to John Smith House. This form has to be submitted by 23rd January 2009 at the latest, otherwise your child will not be allocated a school place. If you have not yet submitted your form you must do so immediately. If you have any difficulties in doing this or would like some support we are offering a drop in help service on Friday 16th January. Bring your form into Kintore Way on that day and we will provide you with the help and support needed. We will also collect those forms completed here and ensure their delivery to John Smith House before the deadline. If you cannot find your form please come to the drop in session and we will provide a replacement.

A few reminders

- If your child has an upset stomach or bug which has caused vomiting or diarrhoea they must be kept at home for 48hours (two days) after the symptoms finish. This helps to reduce the risk of passing it on to others and makes your child less vulnerable to other infections during their recovery.
- Please ensure that your child does not wear jewellery to the Centre other than small ear hoops/studs in pierced ears. Chains, bracelets and large hinged earrings can be dangerous in active play as well as being liable to breakage and loss.
- If you have to bring your child to the centre by car, please park responsibly. Some parents are parking on pavements, double parking or blocking the end of Fort Place. I know that for some of you time is short if you are off to work or college but the safety of all our children must come first. Please make sure that walking parents and children can move safely without having to go into the road unnecessarily in order to pass a thoughtlessly parked car.
- Your children love playing with water. We try to prevent clothes getting wet and help to change children who need it but we do need your help. Please encourage your child to push sleeves up and wear protective clothing and also to tell their key worker if their clothes get wet. Staff will try to become even more vigilant and together

we will do our very best to ensure that the children can explore the water safely.

- Please can we remind everyone to put their child/family name in clothes, coats, wellies and any other items their child might bring to the Centre? Hats and gloves can look very similar and we know how upsetting it is if they become lost.

School Fund

Once a year we invite parents to make a voluntary donation of £10 to the Kintore Way School Fund. Although it is the school fund it is used to benefit children throughout the centre. The fund, for example, pays for the book bags which every child receives, it contributes to the cost of outings and visits which enrich children's learning experiences and it is also used to support fun days so that families can enjoy all that is on offer without further charge. Accounts are kept and audited and parents are consulted if a new use of the money is proposed. Donation is entirely voluntary but it does make an important contribution to the resources and experiences available to all children. You should receive a small envelope with this newsletter - please place your donation inside and hand it in to reception. Thank You.

If Your Child is Absent

If your child is absent from the centre, if they are unwell or have an appointment, please telephone and let us know. We share the responsibility for safeguarding your child and need to know where they are. If you do not call us we will telephone you to ask why your child is absent.

New Staff

We would like to welcome the following members of staff to our team. Sarah Lee, Teacher Rainforest Room. Simone Ntune temporary Nursery Nurse River Room. Sue O'Grady Lunchtime Supervisor in Desert Room. Theresa Benson Lunchtime Supervisor in River Room. Dawn Cooper and Bola Dawodu, kitchen Assistants and Sharon Keane, Cleaner.

Parents Governor Vacancy

As many of you will already know, the school has a governing body which is responsible for making sure that the school is well run and making best use of its resources. They meet once a term from 5.30-8.00pm and a crèche can be provided for governors attending who request it (with 3 days notice given).

We currently have four parent governors but we need one more. We are looking for parents who would like the opportunity to be involved in the governing of the school and would help us by providing the parent's voice when we discuss and decide how the school will operate. If you are happy with the service the school provides, please come and help us maintain it. If you would like to discuss possible changes to school services, please come and share your views. Help, support and training will be provided.

If you are interested in becoming a school governor, or you would like to nominate another parent (with their agreement only please) let us know by filling in the slip at the bottom of this page and returning it to the headteacher by the end of January 2009. If two or more parents are nominated there will be an election at the beginning of next month.

WE NEED YOU!

I wish to nominate _____ as parent governor of Kintore Way Nursery School for two years starting March 2009. This named person accepts this nomination. I/They understand that an election may be necessary in February if there are more nominees than vacancies.

Signed _____

Date _____

Services for Parents and Carers

PARENTS ADVICE

Please come along and have a chat with me at one of the PARENT/CARER ADVICE SESSIONS at Kintore Way on Tuesday mornings 9am-11:30am or Friday afternoons 1pm-4pm. You can also email me at elaine.bailey@southwark.gov.uk. Or call me on 0207 525 0045.

IT'S GOOD TO TALK.

Elaine Bailey

BENEFITS ADVICE

Unclaimed Children's Tax Allowance for 2002/3

The year before Tax Credits were introduced there was a different non-means tested allowance available which was **never** advertised by the Inland Revenue.

It is called the **Children's Tax Allowance** for the Year **2002/3**.

You can still claim this tax allowance before the **31 January 2009 deadline**.

You need to phone HMRC on 0845 302 1437 and ask them to check whether you have already received this allowance and, if not, enquire as to what action you need to take.

You are eligible to claim £520.00 allowance if;

- *You have a child born between 6 April 1986 and 5 April 2003
- *The child lived with you for all or part of 2002/2003
- *You worked and paid tax for all or part of 2002/2003
- *You or your partner earned £6,000 plus in the year 2002/2003 tax year

You are eligible for the £1,040 allowance if;

- *If you can answer yes to the four questions above, and
- *One of your children was born between 6 April 2002 and 5 April 2003

Notes:-

- *Making a claim does not affect your current or future entitlement to Working or Child Tax credits.
- *Your marital status is irrelevant
- *You cannot claim the allowance twice and if your final tax code on your April 2003 P60 ended in an H or a T, you have already had the allowance.
- *This is an easy claim for you to make so do not get duped into paying someone to do it for you because they are likely to charge a large percentage for their services.

Spread the word as this could be something which gives you a little extra in these difficult times!!

ESOL (English speaking) Classes on Tuesdays at 1.00pm

Parent and Toddler groups, on Monday afternoons with Baby Music and on Thursday mornings and afternoons.

We will be hosting a coffee morning for parents and carers on Wednesday 4th February between 9.30 and 11.00am in the hall - please come and join us if you can.

Free School Meal Entitlement

If your child is staying at Kintore Way for lunch in River or Rainforest Room and you receive income support you may be entitled to free school meals. If you think this might include you please come to the reception to collect an application form. You will be asked for proof that you receive income support. It is important that this form is filled in as quickly as possible or you may be charged for meals.

Calling all dads

Our next 'Father's Day' Saturday breakfast will be on 28th February from 9.00 - 11.00am. This time we will be having a pancake party so come and try different types of pancake and be prepared for taking part in a pancake race! There will be a wide variety of play activities available indoors and out (weather permitting), put the date in your new diary so you don't miss it!

Come and share some quality time with your under fives and tuck in.

Get the diary out

23rd January - Deadline for submitting Common Application Forms (CAF's) for Primary School places to John Smith House.

31st January - Deadline for applications for parent governor.

16-20th February - Half Term Holiday for River and Rainforest Rooms and drop in services.

23rd and 24th February - The whole Centre is closed for staff training.

28th February - Father's Saturday Breakfast (pancake party).