

## **Kintore Way Children's Centre Newsletter October 2009**

Dear Parents and Carers

As this is the first newsletter of the new school year I would like to offer a warm welcome to all families who are coming to Kintore Way for the first time and an equally warm welcome back to old friends. There is, as usual, a great deal going on and I am sure that you would not want to miss any of it so please read on and make a careful note of important dates. Coming to nursery is an important time for your child (and for you too) and we want to help you both to get the best from it.

Sharon

### **Information for Parents**

At the beginning and end of the day the entrance area can get very busy and it is difficult to see notices through the crowd. To provide more space we have opened up the next section of corridor to the right of the lobby. This means that parents and children can access the toilet more easily whilst waiting and also provides opportunity to display information where it can be easily seen. There is a large board displaying information on the range of services offered by us as a Children's Centre - Housing and Benefits advice, Midwife and Childminder drop-ins, Courses and Workshops for parents and events just for dads/male carers. There is also a space reserved for parents and carers own notices. If you have, for example, a buggy for sale or a childminding vacancy, please write out your notice and pass it to the receptionist at the front desk who will check it and put it on the board as soon as possible.

Opposite the information board will soon be a photo display of everyone working at the Centre. This will make it easier for everyone to recognise the person whom they may wish to see.

Further down the corridor will be displays reflecting events and celebrating children's work.

Please have a look in this section of corridor and tell us what you think.

## Events

Last Saturday (10<sup>th</sup> October) we held a barbeque for male carers and their children which we have now named **Fudge (Fathers, Uncles, Dads, and Granddads Etc)**. We try to hold a Saturday food and play session approximately once every half term in order to provide an opportunity for the men in the lives of children to enjoy spending some quality time together. They are very popular but there is always room for a few more so put the date for the next one in your diary now - **21/11/09** - see you there!

Of course we don't want the rest of the family to feel left out so on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** we will be holding a **World Food Party** to celebrate all that is best in British, European, African, Asian and South American cooking. We would like to invite you all not only to taste the wonderful food on offer but also to contribute a dish to share of something just like mother used to make (or father, granny.....). Come and share the taste of home as well as music and a good chat.

We hope that those of our families who celebrate Eid had an enjoyable festival and we would like to thank those of you who brought things into the Centre to share.

We will be celebrating Diwali - festival of light - as usual with storytelling and dance over the next week or so. Children learn about the special days from a variety of cultures as part of developing their knowledge and understanding of the world so please ask in the classroom for further details.

October is Black History Month throughout the country and we are especially keen to hear the family stories of the journey which brought our friends and neighbours to where we all are in Bermondsey. If you have stories and pictures to share, please let your child's key worker know.

## Parent and Toddler Groups

On Monday afternoon, Thursday morning and Thursday afternoon we have a parent and toddler group at Kintore Way, in Mountain Room. These are play sessions for children aged five or under and a parent or carer, supported by paid and volunteer staff from the Centre. Many parents do not need day-care services for their little ones but do need opportunities for their child to mix with other children of their own age. New families are especially welcome so if you have a child under five (or have a friend or neighbour who has) and would like to join a friendly group of like minded people, come along and give one of our groups a try. Please see the parents' notice board for details.

## **Thinking Ahead**

I know that Christmas is more than two months away but sometimes it helps to have some advance notice at what is always a busy time. This year, as in other years, we are inviting families to take part in the Shoe Box appeal for the many less fortunate than ourselves. Many of you will have had to buy new school shoes recently so please look for those empty shoe boxes and bring them in. Of course we can't give them to the charity appeal empty so if everyone were able to contribute one small item, the boxes would easily be filled. Items such as children's toys, socks, hats, gloves, colouring books, pencils etc are all welcome but need to be unused. Pound shops and markets offer us a wealth of choices but the children who will receive these presents will otherwise have nothing. A little can go a long way and, as I said, one small gift from each of us could make a big difference to another child.

## **Reminders**

There is always so much to do that we can often do with a reminder now and then.

## **CAF Forms**

If you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 and August 31<sup>st</sup> 2006 then you must fill in a Common Application Form (CAF) stating your choice of primary school. If this is not completed and returned on time your child may not get a place in your preferred school. Forms are available from the office if you have not already been given one. The return address is at the bottom on the back of the form and must be in by the end of January. Alternatively, you can fill in the form and bring it back to the office and we will deliver it to the appropriate department. If you wish us to do this, the form must be with us by **1<sup>st</sup> December 2009**. If you need any help filling in the form please ask at the office.

## **Mobile Phones**

Could we please remind parents/carers to not use their mobile phones when bringing or collecting their children? There may be important information to be shared with you and your child needs to have a happy parting from you so please wait that extra few moments to make or take that call.

**Time keeping**

Please be on time when bringing your child to the Centre and collecting them. Learning activities and story times become disrupted by late arrivals and children can get very distressed when collected late. Every parent is asked to sign an agreement which includes times of attendance and has an opportunity to discuss any problems they may have. Time is also needed for staff to complete other tasks so please help us to run our Centre efficiently by attending at the agreed time.

**Jewellery**

Please note that children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school. Chains, earrings etc can become caught when playing causing injury or loss. This decision is in the interests of children's safety and well being.

**Coats**

Please put your child's name in their coat and any other items (such as gloves) which may be removed. Children often have similar items and staff cannot be sure of the ownership of unnamed property. If you have taken the wrong coat by mistake please return it to the Centre so that it can be returned to its owner.

**Clothes**

We have noticed that some children are struggling with clothes when they go to the toilet and having accidents as a result. Please could you provide your child with clothes they can pull down quickly when they need to use the toilet? Staff will help but we may not always be on hand if we do not know that a child cannot manage and does not ask for help until it's too late.

**Buggies**

If you leave a buggy in the buggy store please keep it folded at all times.

**Get the diary out**

22<sup>nd</sup> October - World Food Party from 4.30pm to 7.00pm

26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> October - Half Term holiday for children in River and Rainforest Rooms

21<sup>st</sup> November - Father's Saturday Breakfast (FUDGE) 9.30-11.30am

27<sup>th</sup> November - Whole Centre closed for staff safeguarding training