

KINTORE WAY CHILDREN'S CENTRE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to thank everyone for their patience and support during the spell of very cold weather at the start of term. Head teachers and governors do not take a decision to close a school lightly and the safety of all concerned is a significant consideration. I realise that for working and studying parents this proved to be a childcare challenge - it's good to be back to normal. We have some dates for your diary, some reminders and an advance notice about changes to nursery education. Don't forget we have a suggestions box in the foyer so please let us hear your views.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phone technology means that we can be reached almost every minute of every day and that can be very useful. There are also times when we need to switch them off so that we can give our undivided attention to a job in hand. When you bring your child to nursery, attend a group or undertake a course please make these times to hit that off button. There may be things to discuss with your child's key worker or things your child wants to share with you. Unless it is an emergency please do not make or accept calls during your attendance at the Centre. Most conversations can wait just a little while but a special moment for your child might never come again.

Please do, however, keep your phone switched on, or ensure that another contact is available, during the time when your child is at nursery, so that we can contact you in case of emergency.

Reporting your child's absence

Please remember to let the Centre know if your child will be absent from nursery on the first day of their absence. It is fine to leave a message on the answer-phone (020 7525 1196). This will save the Receptionist much time trying to contact you for the information, when it may not be convenient for you to answer your phone.

Play-scheme

There will be a holiday play-scheme run by members of our staff during the Spring half term, February 15-19th open from 8.15am- 5.45pm, for children in the 3-5s section. Although the closing date for applications has now passed, if you are still interested in obtaining a place for your child, please ask at Reception.

Centre Fund

We will be shortly asking for a £10 donation for the Centre Fund. We rely on our fund to cover the cost of educational outings for the children, book bags and many other items.

Clothing

- It really helps your child if you can write their name on any items of clothing that they are likely to take off at nursery. It also saves *you* time at the end of the day looking for lost property.
- Please return nursery clothing as soon as you have washed it, including the pants and socks.
- When you next buy shoes for your child, please remember to look for footwear that they can manage independently. Shoes which fasten with Velcro are much easier to manage than laces or buckles.
- We prefer children not to wear jewellery (Centre policy), because of the possibility of it being lost, broken or causing injury. If your child needs to wear jewellery for cultural or religious reasons, please agree this with your child's key person who will advise you on any safety considerations.

Extended Hours

Some time ago, we canvassed your views about managing the change in free nursery education entitlement from 12.5 to 15 hours per week. The change is due to come in for September 2010 and we are in the process of putting together suggestions for how we might deliver the additional hours. There will be a consultation period when we will welcome as many responses from parents as possible so please look out for this in the coming weeks.

Nappuccino Event

Tuesday 9th February from 10 am-11am in Mountain Room. Veolia (the refuse collection people) will be giving away £40 vouchers and offering advice about the advantages of using terry-towelling instead of disposable nappies.

Parents' and Carers' coffee mornings

Wednesday 3rd February Sergeant Iliffe, our community police officer, will be meeting adults, and then calling in from time to time to meet the children informally.

Wednesday 3rd March: Jo from the Job Centre will be giving information about local services and useful websites.

FUDGE

The next session for Fathers, Uncles, Dads, Grandads etc is lunch on Saturday March 6th from 1-3pm. As it is just after St David's Day, we will be following a Welsh theme. If you have not attended one of our Saturday sessions before, you will be made very welcome, and to all of our old friends - see you there.

Dates

15th - 19th February Half term holiday for children in River and Rainforest Rooms.

22nd and 23rd February The Centre is closed to all children for staff training.

24th February All services resume as normal.