

KINTORE WAY CHILDREN'S CENTRE SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

The weather is warming up nicely now and in order that our children are able to enjoy it safely I would like to remind everyone of the need to provide hats and sunscreen, especially for the very young or fair skinned. We are making sure that drinking water is readily available and encouraging children to have a drink regularly. They are running, climbing and making the most of our outdoor area so please ensure that the clothing and footwear they have is suitable.

Whoever you are supporting in the world cup, I hope you enjoy a feast of great football!

Staffing

There will be a few changes to staffing from September, including hello's and goodbyes.

Firstly Christine Barnett, a nursery nurse in Rainforest room, will be leaving us in July after eleven years at Kintore Way. As well as working in the nursery school Christine has also run parent and toddler groups, including during our Galleywall adventure in 2006. We will all miss her greatly but wish her the very best for the future.

Sharon Edwards, currently a nursery practitioner in the under three's, will be coming to work in Rainforest room. This will take effect from September although Sharon has also kindly agreed to move across for the last few weeks of this term as Gail Emerson (a teacher in Rainforest room) will need to have some time out for medical reasons. All key children and there parents will be informed about who will be caring for them.

Jung-Un, who has been covering a classroom assistant vacancy, will also be leaving us in July and we wish her all the best, especially with the baby due in a few months.

We recently appointed a new teacher, Iban Blanco Calvo, who will join us in September. Iban will be taking over as a class teacher in River room so that Rebecca Sherwood can concentrate her efforts on leading the learning throughout the Centre. We have a very large staff team and many activities for children and families and it is vital that we maintain the highest standards of teaching and support for everyone. This requires a great deal of monitoring, assessment and planning. At the same time we want to provide continuity for the children and it is impossible to support the teaching and learning for all age groups and be a key person without putting continuity under strain. Rebecca will still be very much a part of the teaching staff but will no longer have a key group. Iban worked for us temporarily a few years ago and he is really looking forward to becoming a permanent member of staff.

From next term the River room staff will be Ennulanthe (following maternity leave), Iban, Debbie, Penny, Denise/Susan (job sharing) and Simone. The Rainforest room staff will be Sarah, Gail, Cheryl, Rose, Sharon E and Mary. Non key-working teachers, classroom assistants and special needs support assistants will continue to work across the two rooms.

There may be some changes to staffing in Orchard, Desert and Seashore rooms in the coming months but rest assured parents will be kept fully informed in plenty of time.

Lisa Smith took up her role as assistant to our special educational needs co-ordinator in January 2010 and she is responsible for the organisation of support to children with all levels of additional need through our pupil development centre.

Salma Rahman has recently taken up a temporary secondment to become our outreach worker. Salma will be visiting clinics, other early years' services and drop-ins, spreading the word about Kintore Way and the services it has to offer. If you know of any families who have recently moved into the area and have children aged under five please let Salma know so that she can make them welcome. Salma can be reached through the reception or on 07958 108 752.

Reporting your child's accidents

If your child has had an accident at home please inform his or her key person and complete an accident slip on arrival. 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

Due to previously low uptake there will not be a holiday play-scheme at Kintore Way this summer. We are able to signpost any interested parents to a holiday play-scheme which will be running at The Grove Children and Parents Centre in Peckham. Further information is available from Salma or reception.

Bikes and Scooters

We are pleased to announce that we have a new storage shed for children to keep bikes and scooters from home on the premises during the day. The shed is close to the nature garden, behind the deck. There is a sign on the outside to indicate that items are left at owners risk and must be labelled with the child's name clearly visible. Whilst every effort will be made to ensure children do not accidentally remove the wrong bike or scooter we cannot post any guard on the shed to prevent unauthorised removals. If someone other than yourself is collecting your child and there is a bike or scooter in the shed, please make sure that the person collecting knows what they are looking for and will be able to see the name label.

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 began the discussion about 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 consulting with all parents of children due for nursery school admission at that time. Please return the consultation sheet by the date shown so that we can do our best to meet the first choice of as many families as possible.

FUDGE

The last FUDGE breakfast for male carers before the summer break is on Saturday 19th June from 9.30-11.30am. I know this is a busy time but we are always grateful for your support and you will be very welcome!

Summer Trip

All children from River and Rainforest rooms are invited to take part in our visit to Southend on Sea on 5th July from 9.00am-4.00pm. As it is a seaside visit, each child must be accompanied by an adult, which means that we have had to book several coaches for the day. The cost of each is around five hundred pounds, which is why we have asked for donations of £5 towards this cost. If we are not able to raise some of the money we may not be able to offer opportunities like this to our children. If you can contribute we would be very grateful. If parents cannot accompany their child themselves but have a friend or relative whom they trust to look after them then we are happy to support this arrangement. If there are

more than 12-15 children without an accompanying adult it may be necessary for those children to remain at the Centre on that day with appropriate staff.

Reception places

If your child's birthday is between 1st March and 31st August and you have been offered a place for them in the reception class from September it is important that **parents are aware of their right to defer**. This means that you can accept the place but inform the primary school that your child will not start until January. Some July and August birthdays will not have had the chance to be a four year old at nursery before becoming a primary pupil, going to assembly and changing for PE. Many of the summer born children have not yet had the experience of full time in the nursery but they could remain at Kintore Way for one more term in a full time place to prepare them for transfer to 'big school'. If you wish to give your child the opportunity of staying for a term of full time nursery education and transfer in January, please let us know. If the receiving primary school is unhelpful again, please let us know and we will help.

Notice

Please do not allow your children to play in the nursery garden after they have been collected from their nursery room. We want our families to feel welcome but we also need to keep everyone safe and close the building on time to enable staff to go home. Spa gardens are a lovely place to enjoy the summer sunshine at the end of the day and are just across the road.

Graduation

Parents of children leaving Kintore Way to go to Primary School are invited to our graduation events. For children in **RAINFOREST ROOM** this will be on **21st JULY** and for **RIVER ROOM** will be on **22nd JULY**. There will be a session at **9.30 and 2.30** on each day. Parents are asked to let their child's key-person know which one of these sessions they will be able to attend.

Dates

5th July Outing to Southend

27th August Outing to Broadstairs (under three's rooms only)

17th July Summer Fair

23rd July The last day of term for children in River and Rainforest rooms

7th September All current children in River and Rainforest rooms return to school