



# Patricia Pilgrim Nursery News

Spring  
Edition  
2011

**Fay Pilgrim**  
Nursery Principal  
&  
**Graham Pilgrim**  
Joint nursery owner

**Stephanie Barry**  
Nursery Manager

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1991 the Patricia Pilgrim Nursery School opened its doors for the first time, with a license for nine children, aged from two to five years. An open day held previously during a snowy and very cold February resulted in one solitary uptake. By opening day there were three children attending.

Based at Stebbing Green and surrounded by green fields, without any immediate or adjacent population of families, the geographic reality of high levels of placement take-up seems, today, entirely unfeasible. However timing is everything. The early nineties saw a tremendous growth in Mummies returning to work, three months after having a child. What to do – where to go – where will I safely place my precious new-born?

Over the next five years subsequent applications, extensions and conversions allowed nursery to expand to accommodate up to 60 children, 24 under two years and 36 aged from two to five years.

The logistics required for today's modern family to get children from home to day care and then home again at the end of the working day amazes me. Nursery is so grateful to our parents who travel considerable

distances just to arrive in Stebbing – let alone then drive on to undertake a full days work elsewhere.

Distances travelled by parents and children are equalled by nursery practitioners who in the main have to travel a considerable way to get to Stebbing - sometimes in not very hospitable conditions. (November and December 2010 proved interesting!!!...)

And yet,..... and yet here we all are, twenty years on, a vibrant community of parents and nursery practitioners, all with the same goals and ambitions for our nursery children.

The late Patsy Pilgrim provided the motivation and lent her name. Fay and I provided the fabric. Nursery Practitioners provide their excellent care.

And you our wonderful parents, provide the children and the faith.

Thank you all so very much.

Here's to the next twenty years and beyond.

*Fay and Graham Pilgrim*  
Nursery Owners

## A few words from our Manager Stephanie Barry!

### Saving Paper

Please help us with the above and provide your e-mail address so we can send invoices, newsletters etc in this way without using paper

Spring must have arrived as the nursery grounds are awash with daffodils.

As discussed above the nursery is 20 this year and I can understand the worry etc that Graham and Fay have gone through over the years. I also, in 1991 was involved in the opening of a day nursery in what is now the Hilton Hotel at Stansted Airport. We opened a 15 place nursery with 3 children to start and when I left 3 years later we were full but I was unable to persuade the General Manager of the Hotel that it would be more profitable if they expanded to include babies. The nursery closed a few years later.

With regards to our birthday celebrations each child will receive a picture of the nursery's logo to colour. If you can return this to the nursery staff with your child's name and age on it they will be entered into a competition and may win a prize. I would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Pedley and family for the flowering Cherry tree they gave to the nursery to mark this happy day. We have planted it in our Eco field.

We have had our first Ofsted report looking at the way we implement the Early Years Foundation Stage which has encouraged us to look at the way we use our environment. After discussions with staff and management we have decided to make some changes to the 2-5 unit. This will



involve removing the partition wall between the Butterflies and Dragonflies. This will give all the children a better learning environment with designated areas for the six areas of learning. It will also enable the staff to interact better with the children through out the day.

The Ladybirds will still be based in their room but will at times have access to the larger room. The Butterflies and Dragonflies will keep their key persons and planning but will be able to interact and support each other which will encourage social skills.

If you wish to discuss these changes please talk to myself or Terri. We plan to move the rooms over the May Bank holiday weekend.

All input and ideas are welcome.

Please fill in the accompanying form for children who will be leaving us in September 2011 and all children if contact details have changed.

Thank you.

Stephanie.

## Stephanie and June's General Admin Page

### Diary Dates

#### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Easter Bonnet Parade at 10am

Theme: Around the World.

#### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Royal celebrations:

Baby unit: Tea party at 3.45 but remember to wear Red, White or / and Blue.

2-5 Unit: Royal Banquet at 3pm but remember to wear Red, White or / and Blue.

#### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Royal Wedding: Nursery closed.

#### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Return colouring competition picture.



### Sickness

Colds / flu / diarrhoea / vomiting

If your child is unwell please don't bring them into nursery to infect all the other children!

If your child has diarrhoea or sickness, please don't forget that they must be away for at **least 48 hours** from their last bout.

Also, your child mustn't come into nursery for 24 hours from the start of any antibiotics or eye drops.

### Opening and Closing

Please bring your child into nursery at the start of their session (not before) and pick them up promptly at the end.

Don't forget - **late pick-ups and early drop off's will incur charges!**

Full day 8am – 6pm

School Day 9.00am - 3.30pm

AM session 9.00am - 12.30pm

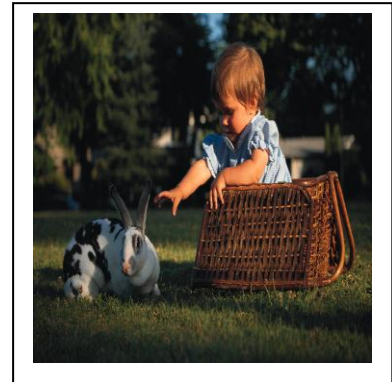
PM session 1.30pm - 5.00pm

### Hot Spring days

We have had some very warm / hot spring days this year so can we remind you to bring in sun hats and sun cream for your child also a labeled water bottle if your child is in the 2-5 unit..

If possible can you apply sun cream to your child before nursery but remember to inform a member of staff.

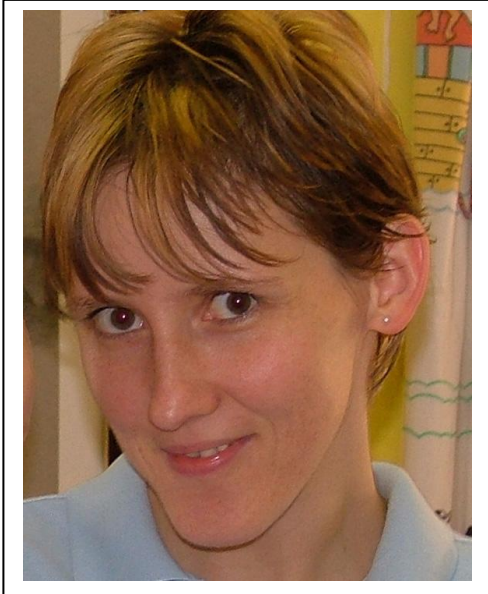
The staff will apply the



cream when necessary and will fill in a form saying the time and date the cream was applied.

Please also ensure all clothing and belongings are labeled to avoid confusion and losses.

## News from Betty



*Betty – Our Nursery Teacher*

### Unplanned Absences

If your child is not going to be present on their normal day(s) due to sickness or any other reason, please let us know in advance if possible but if not then by at least 10.00am on the day.

This stops us getting concerned and also helps us to ensure that the staffing to children ratios are correctly maintained.

### Congratulations:

I am pleased to announce a huge congratulation to Leone and Nick Parish who are expecting their second child; a brother or sister for Oliver in July. Leone's last day at nursery is 22<sup>nd</sup> of June and I'm pleased to say she is expecting to return after her maternity leave ends.

This will be our last term in this academic year. I feel weeks just flying by!

It is good that children can spend more time outside during the day and on our weekly PE sessions. The sunshine has arrived and hopefully here to stay!

We are making very good progress with the children. They are still eager to come into Betty's Room!

The younger children are enjoying their sound lessons and have just finished with their second blocks of six letter-sounds! This is promising as by the end of summer term they will be aware of **all** the 26.

Butterfly's room youngest ones have just finished learning them all. In the next term we are going to concentrate on recognising rhymes and rhyming pairs and using lots of rhyming activities to develop this skill.

The older children will carry on with rhyming and story work and in July our topic will be Going to School. I am sure by then they will be ready to think about it and will be enthusiastic to know more as they probably would have their first taster session.

Regarding writing we will carry on with practicing forming our letters correctly and if possible without any aid. In numeracy we are going to carry on working with shapes, measurements and numbers.

I would like to **Welcome** our new intakes: Monique, Sophia, Joseph, Zara, Abby and Eva. As always this time of the year becomes very difficult for me due to the high number of funded children. This year, as in previous years, I am going to share my teaching time with Leonie. Leonie will carry out the activities I plan with the new children. After Leonie's maternity leave I will take over the teaching.

I am sad to announce that after seven wonderful years at the nursery I will be leaving Pilgrim's at the end of the summer term. I have been offered an opportunity to work as a full-time play therapist and to run Essex Child Therapy Services. I am very apprehensive and excited at the same time. I will miss the nursery, the children and the staff, but I will be back to visit!

In light of this new development, in the summer term I will be working four days a week from Monday to Thursday. During this time I will be closely involved overseeing the recruitment, training and guidance of my replacement. I wish all the children a wonderful summer holiday and hope that they will achieve great things in the future. I am so pleased that I was able to give them a positive outlook on learning and to become confident BIG boys or girls when they go to school!

Betty.



*Tracey is the Deputy Manager in the Baby Unit*

Spring has finally arrived and we have many exciting features occurring in the garden. The bulbs have sprouted into daffodils and the children have enjoyed exploring and watching them grow. We are observing the different insects and bugs that have entered the garden and are going to dig our little garden to plant summer bulbs and vegetables. Some of you may have noticed our new willow dome that has been built in the corner of the garden and it waiting to become a story area, imaginative corner etc.

Please remember that although the warmer weather is here the children may still need coats and wet weather clothing along with sun hats and sun cream.

We constantly need to replenish our sensory boxes so if you have any metal objects like old keys, thick chains and egg cups etc or smelly objects like lavender bags, drawer scents, soaps or any natural items they will be gratefully received. The children enjoy exploring these boxes instead of the plastic toys.

The children have been kept busy with all the Mothers day and Easter activities over the last month and hopefully produced some lovely presents for you to keep and

### Child Comforters

We know that some children need a comforter but could you please try to limit this to only one comforter per child – to be kept in a bag unless needed.

cherish.

The Nursery's 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday party was a success and the babies and toddlers enjoyed getting MESSY with the various sensory activities available which was followed by a party lunch.

Please feel free to look at and contribute to your children's learning journeys, just ask a member of staff if you wish to take them home.

Have a happy and health Easter from the Baby unit team.



## Terri's Page

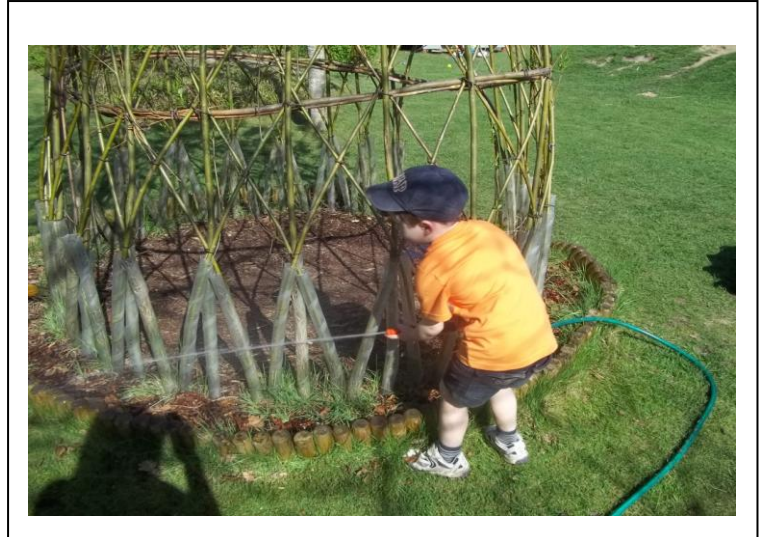


*Terri is the Deputy Manager and works in the Pre-school Unit*

Hello, what a busy month this is going to be!

As well as all of those lovely bank holiday days we are going to have lots of busy things happening at nursery! But let me first give you a little round up of what has happened at the nursery already this term;

I'm sure you have already been told by the children and seen work going on in our new 'ECO FIELD'. We witnessed our lovely outdoor room being erected a few weeks ago and have been able to hold assemblies, morning snack and tea and we have even toasted imaginary marshmallows on a make believe campfire, and fished in a magical pond! With such open ended resources provided such as mounds of natural tree bark, a mini amphitheatre, and a trail to follow, the possibilities are endless! I am certain that this will enrich the children's learning experiences and allow them to be one at one with the peaceful surroundings.



Planting. We have begun planting our seeds for this year and are feeling very optimistic after last years amazing harvest of potatoes, carrots, beetroot, cauliflower, peas and sweet corn! However, we do welcome any seedlings for us to plant at nursery. We already have blackcurrant bushes, potatoes, carrots and sweet corn in place.

Now- Things to come!

The Easter Bonnet Parade will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> April at 10am. The theme this year is 'around the world' which can be interpreted in any way you like. I thought this seemed like a very loose theme and will be interested to see what lovely ideas the children come up with! Here are a few examples to get you going: countries, travel, various foods, flags, traditions, currencies, habitats, weather and environments.... Take the theme as far as you want! As usual all children are invited to participate, even if they are not usually in on this day but these children will need to be accompanied by an adult. Could you let us know before the date if they will be in? Photos will be taken, and prizes given to various categories such as best interpreted, most independent effort, etc.

### The Royal wedding celebration!

We will be holding a Royal banquet in the field on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> April. The children will be making invitations, crowns, decorations and doing other various activities in the lead up to this celebration. Children from all sessions are welcome but please have an adult helper stay if your child is not normally in on this day! Could you again let us know if you will be attending so we have an idea with regards to numbers?

### Now the Naggy bit!

#### PE Kits and labels!

Please remember to label all items of clothing especially PE kits as we do get in a muddle sometimes- especially when we find a vest in the middle of the carpet which no one seems to recognise.

If your child has an accident during the day and has run out of their own spare clothes, they may borrow some nursery spares. Please make sure that these are washed and returned as soon as possible in case they are needed again. We also get through pants, socks and knickers like hot dinners! So if you have any old ones you would like to donate we would be very grateful for these.

We are seeing a lot more toys and money being brought to nursery. Please try to discourage your child from doing this, as well as contradicting the equality of all children, these precious items may get lost or go home with the wrong child. A small comforter may be brought in but needs to be returned to bags as early as possible so that children can commence their usual play and pursuits at nursery.

### Donations please.

Coming into summer we would like to turn our attention to provisions in the nursery garden, and are trying to bump up some of our resources that seem to be getting a little thin on the ground! We are looking for any good quality toys that your children no longer play with or use, such as Tykes cars, scooters, trikes, small cars and diggers, garages, lego, spades and buckets for the sand pit, dressing up outfits, ponies etc. we are always grateful of any donations



### Change of sessions

If you would like to change your sessions in anyway. Please do this through the office. Unless there are mitigating circumstances we required a month's notice in advance. If you require an extra session or hours please also contact the office.  
Thank you.

## CHILDREN LEARN.....

If a child lives with criticism  
He learns to condemn,

If a child lives with hostility  
He learns to fight,

If a child lives with ridicule  
He learns to be shy,

If a child lives with shame  
He learns to feel guilt,

If a child lives with tolerance  
He learns to patient,

If a child lives with encouragement  
He learns confidence,

If a child lives with praise  
He learns to appreciate,

If a child lives with fairness  
He learns justice,

If a child lives with approval  
He learns to like himself,

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
He learns to find love in the world.

Anon.



## SES- Single equality scheme



Thank you so much to those who have volunteered to help with the scheme. Your ideas, visions, and opinions will be very much needed and appreciated in ensuring that we continue to provide a welcoming, inclusive service to all children and adults that come here, and I look forward to the journey ahead! The group is now as follows;

Terri Barnett- Equality named coordinator

Stephanie Barry- Nursery Manager

Vicky Kemp- Specific Educational Needs

Acer Morgan- Parent user of the setting with interest in this subject

Jennifer Ashford- Parent user of the setting with interest of this subject

Kirsty Muir- Parent user of the setting with interest and some experience in this subject

I have already begun to complete an access audit for our setting, and an equality impact check to give us a good idea of where we are at in terms of inclusion in the nursery. This will also be the starting point of discussion for our first equality working group meeting! As there is already lots happening in the coming months at nursery I think it would be best to plan for the first meeting in June, so I will be in touch!

Thank you once again for your interest and support, I will give all parents regular updates on any progress made towards our single equality scheme, and it is not too late to become a part of the group!

### Changes to staff.

We were sorry to say good bye to Rosalyn and Joan over the last few months but are pleased to welcome Emma Allen a full time member of staff in the baby unit.

You will also meet Louise Turner and Michelle Savill who are Bank staff and cover staff holiday and sickness.

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Edited by:  
Stephanie

**La Jolie Ronde  
French for Children**

Please don't forget that Mrs Elisabeth Anderson runs special French classes for our children here at the nursery on Tuesday afternoons. A new term will start in September.

If you are interested please ask for more information in the Office or contact Mrs Anderson direct on 01371-875928 or e-mail [elisabeth@greatdunmow.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:elisabeth@greatdunmow.freeserve.co.uk)



**Cheques**

**Please remember that all cheques payable should be made out to:**

**'Patricia Pilgrim Nursery'**

***About the Nursery.....  
"Childhood – where our future begins"***