

# Patricia Pilgrim Nursery News Bulletin

Autumn/Winter  
Edition

2012

Fay Pilgrim  
Nursery Principal

and

Graham Pilgrim  
Joint Nursery Owner



Stephanie  
Barry  
Nursery Manager

***ARE YOU TELLING ALL  
YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT  
YOUR  
GREAT CHILD  
CARE?***

***If Not Why Not?  
Can you Really do  
without your  
“FINDERS FEE”  
DISCOUNT?***

***Go on – you know  
it makes sense***

***Ask for details from the office***

**Nursery Website** - [www.patriciapilgrimnursery.co.uk](http://www.patriciapilgrimnursery.co.uk)

**E-mail** - [nm@patriciapilgrimnursery.co.uk](mailto:nm@patriciapilgrimnursery.co.uk)



The summer of 2012 will not go down as a great one for the UK. However the swallows that arrive each year and nest in our stables have had a bumper year. From five nests the swallows have managed to raise a total of 19 chicks from birth to adulthood. Sadly the final clutch of chicks was abandoned, leaving three chicks to die and a very lightweight, bedraggled, cold and starving "Hungry Harry (HH)". My discovery of HH was late on Saturday evening 18<sup>th</sup> August. By Sunday morning HH was almost gone. I managed to buy some meal worms and then for the next ten days I fed HH every hour during the hours of daylight. Raising a helpless swallow chick from hatchling to flight was a full time task. There was little thanks; prising HH's beak open to insert the tasty end of each meal worm was difficult enough without HH's efforts to resist. How could such a small bird swallow so many worms at a sitting (or prising)? But feed he did. I didn't think any further than getting him to flight. No thought about "and then what do you do?"

HH took to the wing. He flew around, then came back to perch just out of reach, so no longer could I feed him – he was a teenager - on his own!!!...

At just the right moment an adult swallow appeared to take HH under his/her wing and started to feed HH where he was sat on the stable door. Occasional feeds developed into every three/five minutes. HH thrived.

Over the next month I think we saw HH in flight with attendant adult, and HH being fed during flight. HH came back each night to roost with the other young swallows, his noticeable yellow gape beak gradually disappeared as he matured and grew. At sixty seven I am so proud and grateful to have had my own HH. How many of us can say they have directly affected a small defenceless creature in a life saving manner? Then the penny dropped.

As a Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather I have become too far removed to remember the intensity of child rearing. The worry, the sleeplessness, the indecision, the "winging" it when we do not know what else to do. HH was my summer child (albeit only for a couple of months) you parents out there do it everyday and night and it's hard and your own HH does not always respond in an appreciative manner. You do it because of love, and you do a great job.

At Patricia Pilgrim we cannot replace you or your love, but we can have a good go at it during the times you leave your HH with us. Then just like HH, nursery children at Patricia Pilgrim fly away to do great things and discover the outside world.

It's called growing up.

Graham Pilgrim Nursery Owner



## A few words from manager Stephanie Barry.....



It's amazing we are already in the autumn term, where did the summer go.

This term is always very busy with many changes to the outside environment and also festivals for the children to experience and discuss.

On top of this, the government has a revised Early Years Foundation Stage to introduce to all early years settings. This curriculum will be familiar to some of you as there have only been a few noticeable changes from the old curriculum.

We now have three prime areas which concentrate on all children:

- Language development
- Personal, Social and Emotional development
- Physical development.

There are also four specific areas which will strengthen and support the prime areas.

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive arts and Design.

The nursery practitioners will consider their key children's individual needs, interests and stages of development and will plan activities to support their learning.



Included with the newsletter is an information pack to help you understand the framework. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

One of the new requirements we are asked to do is to formally assess all children between the ages of 2-3 years. We will complete a progress report for these children which we will share and discuss with you. This report is for you to share with your health visitor at your child's 2 year health check. The aim of the check is to review the child's development in the 3 prime areas, to enable the parents to have an understanding of their child's needs and any support the child may require. As the timing of this report is crucial we ask you to let us know when your child's development check is booked so we have the report ready for you in time for your meeting.

Just to keep you up to date with my progress at university. I have now completed my Foundation degree in child care and education and am now completing my BA. At the same time I am working towards my Early Years Professional Status. I will now be absent from nursery on a Tuesday and occasionally on a Wednesday but there are only 5 of these sessions over the year.

Thank you.

Stephanie

## Diary Dates

### Christmas Parties:

**Over 2's** – Monday 17th December between 10.15 – 12.30 am. Again, this year we have decided to have an entertainer who will be performing at the party at 10.30 am. We will still be visited by a special person at the end of the party.

**Under 2's** - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December between 9.30 – 12.30pm.

All children are welcome even when they are not booked in for the session. If you would like your child to attend please let Terri or Tracey know so we can make sure we have enough staff available. Thank you.

### Christmas Play for older children:

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – 2.00 - 3.00pm

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December – 10.30 – 11.30.

Thank you.



## 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 must be off for 24 hours from the start of any antibiotics or eye drops.

Also we cannot give any unprescribed medicines e.g. cough medicine.

## 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. This is so we have sufficient staff available to care for your child.

Don't forget - **late pick-ups and early drop offs will be charged!**

Full day 8am – 6pm

School Day 9.00am - 3.30pm

AM session 9.00am - 12.30pm

PM session 1.30pm - 5.00pm

## Cold Winter days

If we should have any snow please remember to either check the nursery web site or listen to BBC Essex radio for an announcement or contact the nursery direct to see if we are opening. Not only do you have to venture out, but we must make sure that our staff can also get to the nursery as not all of them live locally.

However, even if we have a mild winter when days look bright and sunny, it can still get very cold - so please do remember that all the children still need

to wrap up for garden play – coats, hats, gloves, scarves and Wellingtons and rain weather coats etc.

**Please ensure all clothing and belongings are labeled to avoid confusion and losses. Thank you.**





## News from Stella

Hello from Stella!

We have had a busy term so far, settling into our routines. The children are as eager as ever to come and join me for some exciting and interesting 'lessons'!

I am continuing with the rotating timetable and have put up on the door to the classroom what week we are on and what day we will be doing P.E.

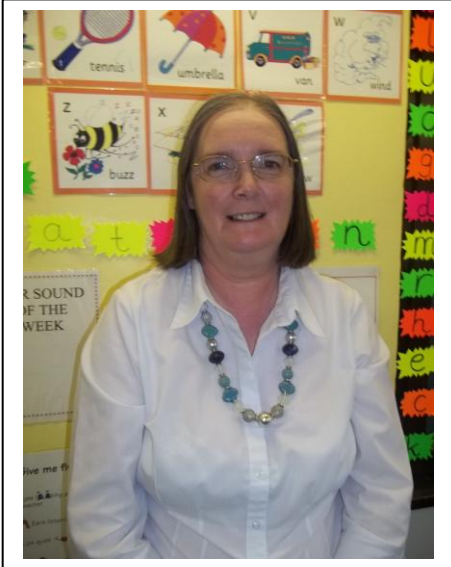
Please don't forget to look in their little red books for my comments about the activities and how well the children have been doing.

We have just started to practice our Christmas play. This year we are performing 'The Little Star Who Couldn't Twinkle'. It develops into a nativity play, so we have Mary and Joseph, innkeepers, shepherds, Kings and lots of 'stars'! The children have been practicing the songs and hopefully you will have received a note about what character your child is playing and the song sheet.

Please let me know if you have any queries regarding the costume, which I have tried to keep minimalistic. We will of course send out further information about the

performances nearer the time.

I can be contacted at the nursery by e-mail, [stella@ppn.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:stella@ppn.eclipse.co.uk).



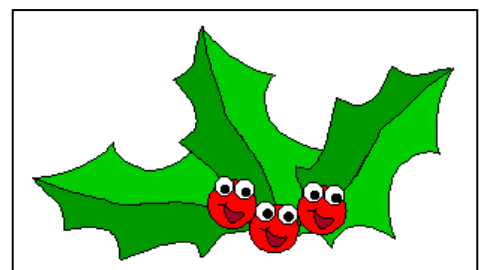
**Stella – Our Nursery Teacher**

***"This year we are performing 'The Little Star Who Couldn't Twinkle'."***

***Please remember to drive slowly when dropping off and collecting your child.***

## Pumpkin Competition.

The Biggest = Archie.  
The Most Unique = Bethany.  
The Prettiest = Aaron





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

It's so nice to see all of the children becoming settled into their new rooms and getting used to their new key people. The children seem to be making great friendships and becoming more confident in so many ways.

As it seems our sunny days are getting shorter now, and the autumn is upon us, we are enjoying all of the special things that this time of the year brings such as finding a new sprinkling of conkers under our horse chestnut tree each day, playing in puddles and picking the last from our crop of courgettes, which I must say have been very fruitful this year, as were the potato plants and the carrots! I am also pleased to add that no longer do we hear "but I don't like *Cucumber*" at

the dinner table when a beautifully fresh and green *courgette* is placed on the children's plate.

Long ago seem our summer days and what a great time was had by all who attended our Spanish day, nursery Rhyme day Hawaiian beach day or the magnificent pirate and princess day. Keep your eye out as the photos of these lovely warm memories scroll across the computer screen in the cloakroom and are documented in the children's learning journeys.

Helping us to think of warmer climates as we draw into winter was our recent topic "Handa surprise" which was based on a book I read to the children one day. The children responded brilliantly to questions about where Handa lives, what animals she came across on the walk to her friend's house and the fruits in her basket. The story spurred on lots of insightful conversations and topics to explore such as making our own huts for Handa to live in, tasting the fruits from her basket and balancing a bowl on our head across the patio..... Which we all agreed was a great skill that Handa has which not many of us share! It truly is a lovely book which the children enjoyed immensely; if you have it at home it is definitely worth another read.

***"Don't forget...there is a finder's fee available to any parent who introduces a new child to the nursery"***



We still have so much more to look forward to! We are going to be learning about the seasons of the year, specifically autumn, where we will be spotting signs of autumn and making autumn animals out of pine cones, conkers, leaves and sticks and hopefully fly some kites! If you have a kite at home and would be willing to demonstrate to the children, we would love to have you! (We will of course make you most welcome by providing tea and biscuits!)

We are also thinking about upcoming events such as Halloween, where we will be doing lots of goey play and craft activities such as decorating spider biscuits, spaghetti in the water tray, and wizard hats as well as a spooky themed lunch and fancy dress.

There is of course, fireworks night which will provide our inspiration for all sorts of singing, dancing and colourful pictures and paintings.

Followed shortly by Diwali, A Hindu festival of light, centred on the romantic story of Rama and Sita, Hindu god and goddess. We will be making colourful murals and thumb pots out of clay to represent diva lamps and Rangoli patterns associated with the festival.

Lastly there will be Christmas. We can deny it no longer, it is definitely coming! And so are our Christmas play preparations which are already underway! Look out for a song sheet as well as details of all the special events mentioned in this news post.

As always at this time of year, Please remember all of the necessary yucky weather gear for your child such as wellies, hats and gloves. If you are going to use last year's wellies for your child please remember to check they still fit.

Terri and the 2-5 unit practitioners







**Tracey, Deputy Manager and works in the Baby Unit**

So the colder, darker months are fast approaching but this does not slow us down over in the baby unit, we have lots of exciting things to keep us amused. Firstly, we have Halloween on 31<sup>st</sup> October; where fun Halloween related activities will take place, please feel free to dress your children in costumes to add to the atmosphere.

This, then follows on nicely to fireworks night on 5<sup>th</sup> November, we will be creating our own fireworks spectacular with paint balls, thrown across black paper and other related activities.

During the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> November, we will be holding our exciting Pet's week. This will cover approximately two weeks. We will have a variety of pets visit so the children can have hands on experience with them.

Last of all we will close the year with lots of Christmas activities and of course a Christmas Party with lots of messy fun.

Can we please remind you that although it is getting colder and damper we STILL venture out into the garden in all types of weather. We believe this is a vital part of children's learning and keeps them fit and healthy. Please provide your child with suitable clothing and footwear, all in one waterproofs are fantastic as they can keep

your child warm and dry and are reasonably priced.

The children's learning journeys are always available for you to take home and look through to see what fun and adventures we have whilst at nursery. Just ask your child's key person.

We are continually renewing and replacing toys, objects and boxes and are currently updating our metal heuristic play. If you have any spare keys, chains, egg cups or anything made from metal would be gratefully received. If you have any questions about your child or what happens in the unit, please feel free to ask.

Tracey and the Baby unit practitioners.



## 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 or the box unless needed.



## Children's collection arrangements are really important!

Please inform us of any changes in the collection arrangements of your children, such as collection times or alternative collectors e.g. friends and family. It is essential that you let us know BEFORE your child is dropped off in the morning of any changes, as we need a photo and a password from collectors before we will 'hand over' your child!!

We do understand that circumstances can change quickly during the day but you must understand that it is your child's safety we are primarily concerned with. In the event of an emergency please notify the office immediately.



## Christmas Break

Please fill in the attached form to inform us if you would be interested in using the nursery on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2012. So we can decide when to close nursery for Christmas.

**The nursery will be closed until Wednesday 2<sup>th</sup> January 2013.**

## Change of Sessions or Extra Sessions.

If you would like to adjust your sessions in the New Year please contact the office ASAP and fill in a change of session form so we can look at availability as we are filling up fast in some age groups.

Thank you

## Christmas Post Box

This can be found at the front entrance to the unit where children can post their Christmas cards to their friends ready for delivery each day.



## 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 staff to child ratios are correctly maintained.

## **What a mess!**



***But that's just  
what learning is all  
about!!***

## **Nursery Mobile.**

**To use when land line not working.**

**07749314287**

## **An interesting Saying**

***“The greatest gifts you can give  
your child are the roots of  
responsibility and the wings of  
independence”***

***By Denis Waitley***

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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 January 2013.

If you are interested please ask for more information in the Office or contact Mrs Anderson direct on 01279-877948 or e-mail [elisabeth@greatdunmow.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:elisabeth@greatdunmow.freeserve.co.uk)

***Please fill in and return parent  
questionnaire and Christmas dates.  
Thank you.***

***“Childhood – where our future begins”***