



Patricia Pilgrim Nursery News Bulletin

Summer
Edition
2013

Fay Pilgrim
Nursery Principal

and

Graham Pilgrim
Joint Nursery owner

Stephanie Barry
Nursery Manager

I am a child of the fifties. This means that I was born in the Forties and that on average I am at least 25 years older than most of nursery Parents. In some cases possibly up to forty five years older! (and beyond)

The above trivia means that I really can remember long summers that have been as hot as the past Wimbledon week or so, almost too hot to breathe. Summers where the roads in Bocking we used to roller skate on melted in the heat, it was a morning activity.

Summer holidays where we really did go out in the morning, came in for lunch, then back out again, until it seemed almost night fall. There were evenings where Dads and their children would play cricket in the back fields, also Mums and Dads and their children would all be playing rounders together. Skipping was a girl and boy marathon activity. We made bows and arrows, catapults; slingshots (see David and Goliath). Dens and camps were made, fires lit, dams dug and streams blocked. We had air guns. Trees were for climbing and making swings from, if over the stream even better.

At the end of the harvest all of the straw in the fields was burnt – usually late evening, the fires could be seen all over the area, this method provided an important feed of pot ash for next years crop. As children do we were drawn to these fires – we helped (unofficially) the

farm workers. We learnt that the wind really can shift and the line of fire could change quickly and dangerously.

All of the above wonderful activities without supervision, H&S would have had apoplexy!

Where is this going you ask? Well I was fortunate to be at nursery when the children were taken through into the “eco field”. I counted either twenty or twenty one who were lined up just alongside the gate. Terri counted them down, “three two one GO!” and they just ran – and ran – and ran. Our children were like so many petals on the breeze, darting off in every direction and just running. They formed into groups or clusters towards the far end of the field, some were skipping along the path, others were in the “willow room” jumping up and down. The sight was truly glorious. I felt so privileged to have witnessed this explosion of child energy. It really made my heart sing with joy, to witness and enable our children to have the freedom to be outside without having to watch this watch that, be careful of the other.

To see our children experience in whatever way a little of the freedom that I had, and still treasure, as a child.

Fay and Graham Pilgrim
Nursery Owners

A few words from our Manager Stephanie Barry!

***Good Luck to all children moving on to school after the summer.
I'm sure they will all have a great time.***



It's that time of year again when we say goodbye to most of the children in the pre-school room as they make the giant step to primary school. But we also welcome the children from the baby unit and of course new starters.

I would like to take this moment to say thank you for all your support over the last four years when I have been studying for my BA in Childhood Studies and my Early Years Professional Status. I had my final assessment on 29th July 2013 and I think it went well as I didn't receive a telephone call the next day to fill in the gaps. I now have up to three months to wait for my results. I feel I have learnt a great deal through my studies and will now put this into practice.

In order to help us improve our practice and our evaluation of the care and learning opportunities we offer your children, could you please fill in and return either by e-mail or as a hard copy the attached questionnaire. If your child is in the 2-5 unit you will receive a hard copy of a children's questionnaire for you to fill in with your child as we would like to find out what they think about their nursery experience. Can I also remind you, if you would like to change your sessions in September that we need to know as soon as possible. Thank you

I have placed a WOW! board in the baby unit. It is a way in which you can inform us of your child's likes and dislikes and anything they have done which makes you proud e.g slept through the night. There are pieces of card for you to write your comments and to display for everyone to see.

If your child is making the move to the 2-5 unit or is already in this unit, we ask that all children bring to nursery a labelled sports cup, outside

clothes suitable for all weathers and a spare set of clothes in a suitable bag not a carrier bag as this can be dangerous. Please can these items be labelled. Thank you.

Could I also remind you to inform your child's key person when your child has been ill over the weekend or on the days they don't attend nursery. This is so we can keep other parents informed of illnesses going round the nursery and we can be aware of why your child may be extra tired or irritable. Can I also refer you to our sickness policy as there are a few illnesses that require your child to stay away from nursery until they are well. If you require another copy please inform the office.

June our administrator, is on sick leave for at least the next few weeks so can I ask you to bear with me if you have any issues relating to invoices etc. Thank you.

If you have any concerns or wish to have a chat about your child's progress or any issues about your child please don't hesitate to ask myself, Tracey or Terri.

ITEMS FOR 2-5 UNIT

TIME BOX: clock either wall or alarm, watches, egg timers etc.

ROLE PLAY: old stamps cut from letters and used envelopes.

JUNK MODELLING: boxes, tubes, tins, tubes, newspapers and suitable magazines.

Stephanie and June's General Admin Page

Diary Dates

Special fun days.

15th August: Go to work day.

23rd August: Super Heroes day

28th August; Beach party and leavers party.

Autumn term

2nd September 2013.

Half term.

28th October - 1st November inclusive.

We will be organising a Christmas Fair again this year but the date has not been organised.

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.

Also can you encourage your child to keep toys at home



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

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 Summer days

We have had some very warm / hot summer 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.

Thank you.



Stella – 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.

Play at Pilgrims.

We are under discussion about holding a coffee / play morning one morning a week in the baby unit for the general public. We will have an area for children to play and also parents to chat over a drink. We would love your feedback on this and whether you know anyone who would be interested i.e: relatives, friends that would like to come along.

Please speak to Stephanie or Tracey with your thoughts.

Hello from Stella,

The first part of my message has to be a very big 'Thank you' to everyone, staff, parents and especially the children for making our Sports Day such a success. Of course it does also help to have fine weather, though I have to admit, this year it was probably a little too hot! Well done also to the 'Green Team' for being the first winners of our new Sports trophy.

The children have all been working really hard this term especially on their number work and phonics. The older children have all enjoyed taking home the 'wordless' books. Some were so enthusiastic that I had to try and find some extra books.

We have been making good use of the garden to do our work in. The children enjoy listening for different sounds and they love looking around for objects that begin with the letter sounds they have been practicing. We have also been finding different 'numbers of objects' and shapes within the garden environment.

A little reminder about P.E. kits please. We do encourage the children to learn to change for P.E., ready for their move to Primary school so it is very helpful if the children have a separate bag for their 'kit' with their name on. The children ideally, need shorts, a t-shirt and trainers or plimsolls, with a sweatshirt and jogging bottoms for cooler days – all named please. Weather permitting we do try to go outside for P.E. as often as possible.

Well, another 'school year' has passed and we have to say some very sad 'goodbyes' to those moving on to 'big school'. We have seen these little people develop over the years into very individual little characters, becoming more and more independent. I know I'm not alone in wishing them lots of success as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

I look forward to seeing you all in September.
Have a lovely summer.

I can be contacted by e-mail at stella@ppn.eclipse.co.uk



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



Wow! What a summer! and we have definitely made good use of all that sunshine. We have been able to spend lovely long days learning outside in the garden amongst, (I must say) some amazing thriving vegetable seedlings which were planed and taken care of by the children, including, runner beans, peas, carrots, sweet corn, broad beans and potatoes which we have enjoyed tasting for lunch.

A great time was had by all who joined in Messy day, Around the world and Go to work day. The good news is the fun is not over yet!. We have Super heros day and the leavers party - Hawaiian Beach party to go. (details in Diary dates)

We are extremely sad to say goodbye to our Big boys and girls who are leaving to go to school in September. All of us , staff and children included will miss you very much and wish you the very best in your new schools, remember to come in and see us if you are passing by!.

Equally we are excited to welcome new children to the unit and say a big hello to Monty, Jorge, Finley and Henry. We have been preparing the children to make their transition from the baby unit to us in September. During August the children's new key person from the 2-5 unit will have spent time with them in the baby unit so the children could get to know this important person in familiar surroundings. The children visited the 2-5 unit with their key person before the final move. We are delighted to welcome, Albert, George N and George B and Sofia and look forward to a busy and fun year ahead.

Sports day was a huge success, I think I speak for everyone when I say what a great day was had by everyone involved, it was so rewarding

to see all the children taking part so happily and parents and grandparents joining in too! A Big thank you to all of the children who behaved so well that day, you made us all very, very proud!

I would also like to introduce to you all, Billy Bear, who would love to join you on your holiday and adventures. Please let us know if you are going somewhere exciting and think that Billy may like to come too!. He even has his own passport, should you need it.

We have changed our self registration board and would like all children to register their arrival at nursery. When you arrive, please help your child to find the space ship with their name on and place it on our self registration board. They can also take the space ship down as they leave to go home.

Now I'm afraid here comes the boring bits.....

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS SPARE LABELLED CLOTHES AND (if your child sees Stella) A P.E KIT. These are an absolute must in muddy weather and in case of accidents. We are running out of spares, so please return any if you find them at home or if your child has outgrown any trousers, shorts or socks.

Just a reminder the 2-5 unit does not open until 8am. Please do not expect to enter before this time. If you need to drop your child off earlier arrange for them to attend our breakfast club which is held in the baby unit.

Please remember to provide your child with a water bottle, sunhat, wellington boots which will all need to be named. They can stay at nursery. Thank you.



Tracey is the Deputy Manager in the Baby Unit

We have been very busy bees over the last couple of months, we have been enjoying the lovely sunshine in our garden and searching for different insects, bugs and birds that come into our grounds.

The themed days will continue over the summer months and are going tremendously well and the children are loving the new experiences that these themes have to offer. We have had snakes come to join us, we went "around the world" tasting new foods, dancing and dressing up to tribal music and making / decorating lots of things. Our Messy day was really a great way for the children to experience different textures. I think the mud kitchen and chocolate painting was the favorite of the day judging by the children's clothes. Our most recent themed day was Pirates and Princesses where the children made their own pirate ship and had a princess tea party. "Go to work day" will enable the children to become a chef and create their own master piece pizza along with lots of other professions throughout the day. We don't stop there: we still have Super Heroes day and Beach Party day to get excited about. So as you can read our babies and toddlers have been very busy indeed and photos of these events will be posted on our Face book page and in the children's learning journey's.



This leads us on nicely to our new member of the group..... Timothy the travelling tortoise, he just loves to see what you all get up to, to share and talk about your travels, so if you are going away anywhere nice, please speak to a member of staff who can lend you Timothy to join you and please take some photos of his adventures to put in our special book.

Could we also ask for some more of your family photos, each room has their own wall display of all the children's families and the children love these walls and pointing to their family members. So please can we ask for some photos to come in as our wall displays are looking a little bare at the moment.

Last of all the dreaded wordLABELLING! It seems to be a couple of items e.g. hats and tops have disappeared, as much as we do our hardest not to lose children's clothes but some do slip through the net and quite often they are not labeled which makes it dreadfully hard to find especially if they accidentally go in the wrong bag. I understand it is time consuming but even the child's initials with a labeling pen on shoes and hats etc can make a difference.

The baby unit wishes you a lovely summer and is wishing all the children that move up in September a fun and happy time, you will be missed an awful lot.

All the best.
Tracey and her team

Free Schooling in Kathmandu



Society for Protection of Women and Children (SPOWC)

www.spowc.org.np

**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

Cheques

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

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Patricia Pilgrim Memorial Day Care Nursery and Nursery School

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