



The Red Squirrel Nursery

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2014

THE RED SQUIRREL NURSERY TEAM

New Staff.... We are delighted to welcome Kim and Eda to The Red Squirrel Nursery Team. Kim has joined the Pre School Team as a Support Worker – as well as working at The Red Squirrel Kim is studying sign language part-time. Eda has joined us for six months for holiday cover. Eda is from Bulgaria and has cared for children as a nanny and aupair in Dundee before joining us.

Staff Changes.... Katrina will become Room Head of Tilly Trout with Gill McMahon taking over the position of Room Head in Henrietta's as from 3rd June. Shirley Whyte has taken on the roll of Acting Room Head in Pre-School to allow Michelle (Deputy Manager) more time to work with Amanda to further strengthen the breadth and depth of the Pre Birth to Three Curriculum and the Curriculum for Excellence.

Our Teams are now as follows:-

DOTTY DEER

Victoria Milne
(Room Head)

Rebecca Dallas
(Early Years Practitioner)

Gosia Mazanka
(Early Years Practitioner)

TILLY TROUT

Katrina Bird
(Room Head)

Jennifer Stephen
(Early Years Practitioner)

Toni Nicholson
(Early Years Practitioner)

Hayleigh Boyle
(Support worker)

Ada Cieslik
(Support worker)

HENRIETTA HEDGEHOG

Gill McMahon
(Room Head)

Giulia Gattermayer
(Early Years Practitioner)

Carole Japp
(Trainee EYP)

RUSTY SQUIRREL

Shirley Whyte
(Acting Room Head)

Natalie McIntyre
(Early Years Practitioner
& Forest School Leader)

Kim Fairweather
(Support worker)

Michelle Tandy
(Deputy Manager)

Also on the team... Joyce Welsh – Nursery Cook ** Grace Garvock – Nursery “Granny” ** Ico Maresca – Nursery
Bob the Builder ** Eda Alev – Support Worker ** Fiona Lindsay/Heather Welsh/ – Supply Support Workers



FOREST SCHOOL FUN FRIDAYS

We are delighted to announce that our Forest School Fun Fridays will start on Friday 6th June – Forest schools are an exciting and inspirational experience for the children integrating all aspects of the curriculum with a strong emphasis on promoting numeracy and literacy. Even more importantly, this initiative connects children to their outdoor environment, stimulating curiosity and inspiring a love and appreciation of the natural world around them.

Natalie, our Forest School Teacher, will offer these sessions to our pre-school children in small groups – please see our notice board for further details.

CHANGES TO SNACK AND LUNCH TIMES

(as from Monday 2nd June)

07:30 to 08:00 – Toast and Milk for our Early Starters

09:15 to 09:45 – Snack Time

11:30 to 12:15 – Lunchtime (Under 2's)

11:45 to 12:30 – Lunchtime (Over 2's)

15:30 to 16:00 – High Tea

PLAY AND STAY SESSIONS

Are available to all parents – these sessions give you the opportunity to share your child's nursery experience and participate in some of your children's learning activities.

Five minutes or an hour - if you are interested please speak to your Room Head who will be happy to organise this.

CAN YOU HELP WITH OUR NURSERY GARDEN ?

Please have a look at our display at the front door – if you have any of the items we are looking for please let us know we would be so grateful – it is actually harder than you think to find an old second hand boat!

We would also welcome any advice from our "gardening" parents as we are continually fighting a losing battle keeping our turf strong enough to withstand the daily pounding of little feet.

SHARING YOUR CHILD'S DAILY NURSERY EXPERIENCES

We understand that there is not always a lot of time to fully update you on all your child's nursery experiences. This is why we try to introduce several methods of sharing this information with you - we would like to ensure that you are aware of these so that you are fully informed about all of the stimulating activities and experiences that go on throughout the day. Please look out for:-

Our Parents Notice Board

Our beautiful Nature Diary (located in Pre School)

Our Informative Wall Displays

Facebook

Our Nursery Website

If you have any ideas for other ways we could share this information with you please let us know – our comments box is located in the cloakroom – we always welcome feedback positive and negative (!) as this helps us to continually improve our service.

SUMMER WEATHER

The children love playing outside in all weathers so it is vital that they have everything they need to allow them to make the most of the wonderful outdoor environment we have here.

Please ensure you have provided suncream for your child with a factor of 50. This must be clearly labelled with your child's name and the date it was handed into nursery. Please also ensure that they have a suitable sunhat as well as a spare set of clothes – there is always lots of mud and water!

NURSERY UNIFORMS JUNIOR AND PRE SCHOOL

Please ensure that your child comes to nursery in their nursery uniform – Nursery Uniform is compulsory in both Pre-School and Junior Pre-School. Our Nursery Uniform:-

- Creates a sense of community and belonging
- Makes the children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Assists in the transition from Nursery to Primary 1
- It is also practical avoiding expensing clothing from getting ruined by mud and paint and other related mess!

HELPING TO KEEP THE NURSERY CLEAN AND THE CHILDREN COMFORTABLE

Please ensure your child has a pair of indoor slippers or black plimsolls (both with Velcro) to change into when they arrive at nursery. Outdoor shoes must not be worn in Nursery. So many of our children still come to nursery without a change of shoes this is not only very uncomfortable for the child but causes serious infection control issues.

NURSERY CLOAKROOM

We would like to draw your attention to our Cloakroom Rules displayed in our Cloakroom. These rules are in place for your child's safety. Could we also ask you to refrain from overloading your child's peg – thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13th June Family Football Day to celebrate the World Cup

27th June, 7pm Pre School Graduation

25th July Commonwealth Sports Day

1st July Nursery Uniform – Order Date

5th July Garden Party

14th July Mini Music Festival

More Details about these events will be displayed in the nursery as well as on our Facebook Page

Car-park Safety



Please be aware of your speed in our car park as it is regularly used at all times of the day by children, parents and nursery staff.

Nursery Sessions

After monitoring its effect on the children in our nursery, we have decided that the minimum sessions that a child may attend is 2 days.

Ever green After School Club

There are still spaces available at the EverGreen After School Club over the summer holidays. If your child is starting school this year, please speak to Vikki Ellis to book your place.



NURSERY BAGS/STORAGE

Storage space is very limited in Nursery which is why we ask parents to use our nursery bags. Some of our parents are still bringing in bags which are the equivalent of small suitcases which make storage very difficult. If you do not have a nursery bag please let your Room Head know who will arrange one for you.

FAVOURITE RECIPIES AT NURSERY

BEEF AND BEAN CRUMBLE

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil
2 medium onions, peeled and chopped
4 medium carrots, peeled and coarsely grated
2 gloves garlic, peeled and crushed
900g lean minced beef
1 level teaspoon marmite
300ml water
100g tomato puree
2 x 400g canned baked beans
150 rolled oats
50g plain flour
100g Cheddar Cheese
50g unsaturated spread, melted

1. Pre-heat the oven to 200C or Gas 6
2. Heat the oil in a large frying pan and cook the onion over a medium heat about 10 minutes. Add the carrot and the garlic and cook for a further few minutes.
3. Turn up the heat and add the mince and fry until it is browned all over.
4. Stir the water, Marmite and the tomato puree, bring to the boil turn down the heat and simmer for about 15 mins.
5. While this is cooking make the crumble. Mix the flour, oats and cheese together then add the melted unsaturated spread and stir.
6. When the liquid has evaporated from the mince add the baked beans.
7. Transfer the mixture to an ovenproof dish and cover with the crumble
8. Bake in the pre-heated oven for 25-30 minutes or until the topping is a light golden brown.

