



Westmill Nursery

Learning through play

T: 01763 273005 www.westmillnursery.co.uk



Westmill Village Hall, Westmill, Herts, SG9 9LJ. Email: westmillnursery@tiscali.co.uk

DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER



Bob Needs a Holiday Home

Bob our very friendly nursery goldfish is looking to spend his holidays with one of his friends from Nursery over Christmas. He is no trouble at all and will not even ask to share your Christmas Cracker!! Are you able to look after Bob for us over the Christmas holidays? Please let a member of staff know if you are interested.

Meet our Buggy Buddies

From January the Buggy Buddies will be arriving in nursery and will play an important part in our planning, particularly for the first term. The Buggy Buddies have been introduced by Hertfordshire County Council to encourage children and families to enjoy learning outdoors with a strong link to road safety. Each of the 6 soft bugs have individual personalities and an interest in one of the 6 areas of learning and development.



Breeze the Butterfly loves discovering everything to do with **Knowledge & Understanding of the World**

Poncho the Caterpillar enjoys sharing **Personal, Social & Emotional Development** activities

Baxter the Bee likes getting stuck into **Creative Development**

Pippo the Ant is counting the days down to enjoy **Problem Solving, Reasoning & Numeracy** challenges

Luna the Ladybird can't get enough of **Communication, Language & Literacy** and finally....

Webster the Spider runs to all **Physical Development** opportunities

We are sure that these little creatures are going to be a big hit with the children. In other nurseries and pre-schools it has been reported that the children become attached to the bugs which in turn encourages and supports their learning.

During the first half term we will be introducing the bugs to the children incorporating them into our key activities. For the second half term children will take it in turns to take a 'bug pack' home. 'Bug Packs' will consist of one of the bugs, a card detailing an activity you can enjoy together at home, the resources to carry out the activity and a record book for you to record the bugs adventures at home with you.

Thank you in advance to supporting us in our new project.

Achievement Tree

You may have noticed an apple in your child's book bag recently. We have been using apples in nursery to record children's achievements for a while now. When keyworker's have written an achievement on an apple, children are encouraged to stick it onto our achievement tree. We now have a new achievement tree in our book corner allowing us to share achievements better in nursery but then sending them home at the end of the week



to share with parents/carers. You may want to create your own achievement tree at home or keep the apples somewhere special.

Reminder of Changes from January 2012

We have been busy planning the finer details of our afternoon sessions that begin in January. Daily routines will be sent out shortly to those parents of children who will be attending afternoon or extended sessions. Copies can also be downloaded from our website on the 'activities' page if you are interested. Extended sessions will continue to run as normal, just at slightly different times on a Tuesday & Thursday.

A reminder of the new times and fees from January:

Morning Sessions:		
Monday:	9.20am to 1.20pm	£16.25
Tuesday	9.00am to 1pm	
Wednesday	9.20am to 1.20pm	
Thursday	9.00am to 1pm	
Friday	9.20am to 1.20pm	
Afternoon Session		
Tuesday	1.15pm to 3.30pm	£9.50
Thursday	1.15pm to 3.30pm	
Extended Sessions:		
Monday:	9.20am to 2.20pm	
Tuesday:	9.00am to 2.00pm	
Wednesday:	9.20am to 2.20pm	
Thursday:	9.00am to 2.00pm	
Friday:	NO EXTENDED SESSION	
Additional hours		£4.25

It has been necessary to increase our session fees due to increased running costs and retainment of our increasingly qualified compliment of staff. We are very lucky to have a team of highly qualified and experienced members of staff who are passionate about providing high quality care and a stimulating learning environment for your children. Thank you for your understanding.

Children in Need



Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Cake Bake on 18th November for Children in Need. We raised a fantastic £93.00 which has now been sent off. The children loved making pudsey biscuits in the morning to sell and the cakes that were brought in by parents/carers were super. It was evident a lot of time and creativity went into them!

Wallace visits nursery

On 24th November the children were treated to a visit from a guide dog trainer and her puppy, Wallace. The children got to hear all about the important role of a guide dog in helping others and also a little bit about Wallace's training. Of course the best bit was getting to stroke her!!

These visits are really important in helping the children to learn about others in their community. If you, or you know of someone who would like to come and share their interesting job or skill with the children please do let us know.



This half term the children have been learning how germs can be passed on if hands are not washed correctly and regularly.

To help the children get a better understanding of this they rubbed their hands in a tray of glitter to represent the germs that stick to your hands, then shook hands with a friend to see how easily germs can get passed on. Everyone was keen to have a turn and most of the children have now learnt to wash their hands really well.

Thank you for supporting our theme and it is clear you have been practicing with your children at home.

Words to Happy and you know it.....

As part of last week's theme 'choice & responsibility' the children made up their own words to one of their favourite songs 'If your happy and you know it'. These are some of the actions that they decided on; some are amusing so we thought we would share these with you.....

Jonny says "if you're happy and you know it eat some cakes"

Levi says "if you're happy and you know it tell my mum Christmas is coming!"

Dempsey says "if you're happy and you know it stamp you feet"

Brooke says "if you're happy and you know it sit down, pat your knees, stand up then sit down"

Ellie K. says "if you're happy and you know it say I don't know"

Ethan says "if you're happy and you know it clap your hands"

ECAT Parent Questionnaire & results

Thank you all for completing and returning our recent parent questionnaires regarding your child's communication/language skills. It is important to us that we get an holistic view on how we can help with children's communication.

We are pleased to report that a majority of parents have the knowledge in ways to help their child develop speech, language & communication skills, however it is evident that we need to support you more in knowing what to expect at different ages and inform you more on how children learn to talk. Therefore we have attached to this newsletter some easy to refer to talking tips for children aged 2 to 3 and another for children aged 3 to 4 which you may find helpful. In addition we think that the 'First Words' information sheet is good as it comes with 'top tips' for each age group. We do have more resources up our sleeves if you are interested, but did not want to bombard you with too much reading just before Christmas!

A high proportion of parents were unsure what to do or who to contact if they have a concern about their child's speech and language development. If you are at all concerned please do have a chat with Mandy our SENCo who will be more than happy to help. Another good source of support is your Health Visitor or Bramble Hill Children's Centre, telephone: 01763 273008 or visit their website:

<http://www.bramblehillchildrenscentre.org.uk/>

Christmas Concerts 13th & 15th December 12.45pm

We hope that you have recently received a letter containing all the information you need to know for our forthcoming Christmas Concerts at St. Mary's Church. The children have been practicing their songs and will be visiting the church to become familiar with a different surrounding.

Please can we ask that you are considerate to local residents and the Sword in Hand public house when parking your car, we do anticipate it to be busy! We look forward to welcoming you and your families.

Please do ask if you have any questions.

Christmas Hampers

Thank you to everyone who has brought in items for our Christmas Hampers and also brought tickets. The basket on top of the drawers is beginning to fill! The list of suggested items is now on the notice board, we would really appreciate it if you could put your name against at least one of them and bring it in before **Monday 12th December**. Big thank you to Toby's mummy who has kindly donated a lovely prize - £20 voucher for Attend2Health.



Thank you for your support

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Party No. 1	5 th December
Christmas Party No. 2	7 th December
Christmas Concert No. 1 NO EXTENDED SESSION	13 th December
Christmas Concert No. 2 NO EXTENDED SESSION	15 th December
End of Term	16 th December
INSET Day	3rd January 2012
Beginning of Spring Term'1	4 th January 2012
Half Term	13 th to 17 th February 2012
Beginning of Spring Term'2	

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas filled with extra special moments.

All the team at Westmill Nursery

