



# Westmill Nursery

Learning through play

T: 01763 273005 [www.westmillnursery.co.uk](http://www.westmillnursery.co.uk)



Westmill Village Hall, Westmill, Herts, SG9 9LJ. Email: [westmillnursery@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:westmillnursery@tiscali.co.uk)

## JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

We hope you all had a lovely half term break. It has certainly been a very busy few weeks at nursery with lots happening and plans being put into place to improve the nursery even further. Read on to find out our latest news.....

### Summer Outing

After much deliberation and visits to other attractions we have decided to return to Paradise Wildlife Park in Broxbourne for our summer outing this year. The children had such a lovely time there last year which was made even better by some glorious weather! As an extra treat we have booked a 'close encounters' session for the children in the parks Discovery Centre – which sounds like fun! Our outing will take place on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July and nursery will be closed for the day.** A separate letter will be sent home containing all the details.

### Some Interesting Facts about Fathers Day

This year Father's Day, on 20<sup>th</sup> June will be extra special, as 2010 marks the centenary of this annual tradition.

While listening to a Mother's Day church service in Washington, USA, in 1909, a young woman called Sonara Smart Dodd decided to instigate a similar day for dads? Mothering Sundays had been part of the secular and Christian calendar for centuries, but there was no equivalent festival to celebrate fathers.

After the death of his wife in child-birth, Sonara's father had raised six children alone, and she wanted to find a way to thank him for his love and selflessness, honour the sacrifices he made, and tell him how special he was. So, the following year, Father's Day was born and over the decades, grew into the annual event we know and celebrate the world over.

Did you know that.....

- Positive engagement between father and child is linked to higher IQ at age 7 and 11, and better exam results at 16.
- The more a father reads to his child between the ages of 2 and 3, the greater the child's interest in books later.
- Fathers exert greater influence than mothers on boys' educational choices.



To coincide with Father's Day, **Fathers Story Week** (14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2010). We would like to celebrate by inviting a father, grandfather, uncle or other special male person to read to the children, ideally one a day throughout the week. This is a fantastic opportunity for fathers to spend time together in support of their children's learning and development. If you would like to get involved please do let us know. We might need to rely on mummy's to have a persuasive word please!

**Fathers, please join us on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June** for some 'world cup' themed activities to enjoy with your child. Further details will be sent home shortly.

If you would like more information about Fathers Story Week, please visit: [www.fathersstoryweek.org](http://www.fathersstoryweek.org)

### Banardos Toddle



What a wonderful day we had at our Banardos Toddle at the park on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> May. A BIG Thank you to all of those parents who kindly helped organise the course, transport equipment, give out stickers, hold the finishing line etc. these events would be very difficult to organise without your support. Well done to all the children who made their way round several laps, not so easy when it's hot and sticky! and collected an **amazing £594.50**. This is a fantastic amount that will go towards helping the children who need it the most. Thank you again.

*Still enough energy for a final race!*

## Home Achievement Books

We are pleased with the contributions we have received in children's home achievement books. This new scheme is going extremely well as children are incredibly proud to share their achievements, often extending and building on new vocabulary and delighted to receive a sticker. It has also been really helpful in allowing us to get a more holistic view of your child and their life outside nursery, which in turn contributes to their Learning Journey and how we plan for them. Thank you. Please continue to use the books and don't forget to pop it into the 'special celebration box' on top of the wooden lockers if you have written in it.

## Sun Hats

We think that Summer is now here – apart from the odd wet day! It is essential that your child has a sun hat in nursery. It may be worth investing in a spare one to be left at nursery so you don't have to remember another thing? As always please remember to make sure it is clearly named. Thank you.

## Exciting News! – Exciting News! – Exciting News!

We have been fortunate in acquiring additional outside space! In addition to our existing garden we have acquired land (allotment space) next door to our large storage barn (which if you don't know where, it is directly in front of you if you look down the driveway towards nursery). This is ideal as it is very safe for the children to walk accompanied to and from nursery with no passing traffic.

Lorraine has had her eye on it for at least three years and snapped it up when it became available. It is currently in a poor state and needs a lot of work to make it safe and stimulating for the children. We have plans to make this into a play space with raised beds for growing vegetables and flowers, a sensory garden, built in sand pit and play equipment. We would love to get this area usable as soon as possible, but need to be creative in making this happen when no grants and limited funds are available. Lorraine received professional advice and arranged for essential tree, fence and soil work to be carried out in the next couple of weeks. However **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** With the help of parents and family members we are sure we can make this an enjoyable place for the children very soon. Details of a fun sponsorship event will be sent home shortly.

We propose to do as much of the lighter work ourselves if we can by arranging a couple of 'volunteer working parties' on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July from 10am**. We aim to spread topsoil, lay turf and paving plus any other suggestions you have? Please do come along if you can. No need to stay all day, we would be very grateful for any time you can spare – as the saying goes "many hands make light work". Just in case you need any encouragement Cold beers and pimm's will be available!



## Training Update

Lots of training has been happening behind the scenes.....

Congratulations to Jo who has successfully completed her level 2 in Children's Care, Learning and Development. Jo has worked extremely hard to achieve this and is just about to begin her level 3. Jo is a real asset to our team and has made some valuable contributions. Good luck in your continued studies.

After three long years of studying Lorraine has now successfully completed her BA (Hons) in Education Studies, also achieving a 1<sup>st</sup> (which she is particularly pleased about!) the knowledge that Lorraine has gained from her degree has, and will continue to be used to support the children in their early education. Lorraine plans to have a break from studying to concentrate on her passion 'nursery' and possibly even get a chance for some desperately needed home decorating. She is extremely pleased that Westmill has met government guidelines already in being a graduate led setting by 2015.

### Other training:

Buntingford Network – Parents as Partners	-	Lorraine & Mandy
Every Child an Explorer	-	Jo
Makaton Signing	-	Lorna & Jo

### Forthcoming training:

ECAT (Every Child a Talker)	-	Jo, Lorraine, Louise, Karen, Sarah & Mandy
Celebrating Early Years	-	Lorraine, Mandy & Lorna
Designated Person Safeguarding Children	-	Lorraine

## Work Experience

We are pleased to be helping Freman College with placements for their students again this year. From 28<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July we will be welcoming two students, Emerald and Alice. We hope that you will make them feel as welcome as us.

## Graduation Day

To congratulate all the children who will be leaving us of their achievements we will be holding a Graduation Picnic at the Park on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July. If your child is leaving and does normally attend on a Wednesday, please do come along if you can at 12.20pm. All children, unless they stay for extended sessions will need to be **collect from the park at 1.20pm this day**. Thank you.

## Update on Transition

### Leavers:

Mandy has been very busy arranging appointments to visit all the new schools that the children will be moving onto. These are due to take place the first week after half term. We will be making transition books of each school containing photos of key features which will be used in small group time. New teachers will also be invited into nursery this half term to meet their keyworker and get to know children in an environment in which they are comfortable.

Keyworkers will use the remaining summer term to update Learning Journeys and carry out informal assessments to aid writing leavers reports. Please do contact Mandy if you have any comments or questions.

### Dual Setting Placements:

For those children who attend an additional setting, Dual Setting Communication Books have been set up to ensure that essential information is shared between settings about your child's development to support their progress. These will be sent home in book bags. Please pass these onto your child's keyworker in their other setting, asking them to read and follow the short instructions on the inside cover. We would appreciate your support in making sure that the book goes with your child to their setting each time they attend and is in their book bag when they attend Westmill.

We hope that we have an upto date list of children attending another setting, if you have been missed please do let Lorraine know. Thank you.

## WANTED Home corner clothes

Do you have any smart children's clothes we could borrow for our 'Weather Station' home corner please? ie, tie's, shirts, jackets, blouses. Also towards the end of term we will be changing it into 'big school'. Do you have any school uniform we could borrow to support our leavers transition, i.e Roger de Clare, Jenyns, etc.

## Price Increase

Unfortunately it is necessary to increase our fees to £15.75 a session from September 2010. Additional hours will remain at £4.05. This is due to an increase in 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.

## Sunflower Competition – Thurs 15th

Sunflowers were planted at nursery and taken home to nurture on Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> May. We hope that they are well on their way to looking something similar to 'jacks beanstalk!'. Due to our summer outing on the 8<sup>th</sup> July our sunflower competition will now be re-scheduled to 15<sup>th</sup> July – further details to follow nearer the time.



### Race for Life

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July us ladies will be joining many others in the 'Race for Life' in Cambridge.

If you are not aware all the money raised will go towards supporting research into cancer. We are hoping that you will show your appreciation for our hard earned sweat and tears and sponsor us as a group. You can do this in several ways, by logging onto our personalised page at

<http://www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/westmillnursery> , completing our sponsorship form which is hanging on

the parent's notice board or popping your donation in an envelope marked 'race for life'.

Any advice on keeping up with everyone else would also be appreciated! Thank you so much for your support – we will do our best!

## Dates for your Diary

Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Fathers Story Week
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Father's Day Celebration
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Working Party at Play Area from 10am
w/c 28 <sup>th</sup> June	'Fill a bag of Seasons' Sponsorship
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Working Party at Play Area from 10am
w/c 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Return 'Fill a bag of Seasons' Sponsorship & money
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> July	New Parents Evening 7pm
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Outing to Paradise Park – NURSERY CLOSED
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Graduation Day
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	End of Summer Term
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Beginning of Autumn Term

Kindest regards  
All the team at Westmill Nursery