



# Westmill Nursery

Learning through play

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



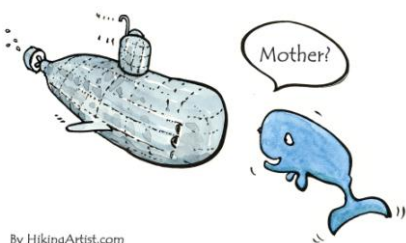
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## OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

Thank you for all the support and positive feedback we have received this term, this really means a lot to us. Our new children who joined us at the beginning of term are continuing to settle in extremely well and it appears that the new transition arrangements we put into place this year have paid dividends! Well done to all the staff and parents who have played a key role in this.

### Make time 2 play

'Building Brighter Futures' have produced some very easy quick reference sheets for parents covering a whole host of subjects, these can be found in our parents box on the name table as you arrive in nursery. Make Time 2 Play in their latest publication and clarifies just some of the benefits of how play supports children in their overall physical and emotional development. Why not take a moment to have a read?



By HikingArtist.com

### Update ECAT (every child a talker)

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent ECAT questionnaire, the results of which will contribute to further audits that we have done during our audit week 27<sup>th</sup> Sept to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. Sarah has carried out an audit within nursery to establish how we can build on our already 'communication friendly environment'. Staff have completed questionnaires to identify any additional training needs and keyworkers have also completed a simple assessment on their key children to assess their needs. Sarah is in the process of analysing all of this information and will keep you posted of our plan of action. Please do ask if you have any questions.

### Do you know where to go for guidance about safeguarding children?

We wanted to let you know about Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board new website which has recently been launched. There is a dedicated section for parents/carers and contains some good advice about e safety and other ways you can help keep your children safe. It's really easy to use just go to [www.hertssafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.hertssafeguarding.org.uk). For your information Mandy and Lorraine are the designated officers for nursery.



### Pants, Pants and more pants!

The children have really been enjoying letting their imagination run wild with their favourite books this half term. A particular favourite has to have been 'Pants' by G. Andreae & N. Sharrott. This book has really helped the children to gain a better understanding of patterns in a fun and creative way. The week ended in a team game on the Friday where children and staff wore as many pants as possible (over the top of their clothes). Although this was a little embarrassing for a member of staff when a fire drill was called!

Daisy decorates a pair of pants using some textured fabrics.

### IMPORTANT - Is your child leaving us?

We would like to remind you that if your child is leaving us at the end of term (Christmas) you must notify us in writing before **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** to avoid additional fees. If we do not receive sufficient notice, unfortunately one month's fees will be due in lieu of notice. Thank you for your understanding and please discuss any queries you have with your child's keyworker.

## “Wash those dirty hands”

Thorough hand washing is becoming more and more important to reduce the risk of bugs being transferred, particularly at this time of year. To make this fun we have just introduced a short song for the children to sing whilst washing their hands. We thought that you may also like to use this at home.



(To the tune of ‘wind the bobbin up’)

Wash your hands with soap  
Wash your hands with soap  
Rinse, rinse dry dry dry

First wet your hands then add some soap  
Rub it all around, see the bubbles float  
Give your hands a rinse then pat them dry  
It’s easy when you give it a try

Happy hand washing!

## Christmas is on it’s way!



We can’t believe Christmas is on it’s way yet again! and plans are underway to treat the children to at least one Christmas party and take part in our concerts at the end of term. We will be putting together some fantastic Christmas food & drink hampers to raffle this year. As always we are dependent on your kind donations of items for these hampers. There are some great offers in the supermarkets at the moment for buy one get one free goodies. Please would you consider donating the free one to nursery next time you go shopping? We will begin collecting these from 1<sup>st</sup> Dec; however you are very welcome to bring things in before if they are too tempting to have at home!

The money raised from the raffle will go towards buying some seats for our seating area in our Secret Garden.

Further details of the raffle and parties will be sent home nearer the time.

## Grand Opening of our ‘Secret Garden’

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to making our ‘Secret Garden’ happen! A special thank you must go to Karen and also Claire, Kaelyns mummy who have both worked tirelessly on days when it has been extremely hot and also on days when it has been pouring with rain!

It is now beginning to take shape, the grass is all laid, complete with a small hill for rolling, hiding behind or just standing on top of! there is a barked area underneath the big tree dedicated for seating and a sensory garden and coverings have been laid around the raised beds. Over the next few weeks (and if the rain eventually stops!) we will be laying stepping stones in the grass, constructing a digging area and fencing in our composting area. As always we would appreciate any help that you can offer, please keep your eye on our A board and emails for dates.

Please join us for the **GRAND OPENING OF OUR SECRET GARDEN on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm.** Refreshments will be served and everyone is invited!



*The children lend a hand to compact the soil prior to turfing*

If you have not had a chance to see our garden recently please do have a look, you will be amazed at it’s transformation!

# FIRST AID TRAINING FOR PARENTS/CARERS



## Wednesday 13th October 2010

Basic first aid training which includes life saving, resuscitation & recovery and choking  
(compulsory if you want to do the advanced training)

## Wednesday 20th October 2010

Advanced first aid training which includes bleeding, fractures and head injuries  
(can only be done if basic training has been completed)  
7pm- 9pm

Seth Ward Community Centre, Buntingford  
£5 per 2 hour session

For further information or to book a place please call 01763 273008 or  
email [sam.lemay@centralhertsymca.org.uk](mailto:sam.lemay@centralhertsymca.org.uk)

## Christmas Card Project



The children will be making their Christmas cards next week and their design will be sent home by the end of next week for you to place orders. A letter with full instructions and order form will be enclosed with their artwork, please ensure that these are **RETURNED BY FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER**. Unfortunately we will not be able to send off any orders after this date.

Card packs should be in nursery the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> November, in good time for Auntie Doris in Australia! We will receive a small amount of funds for all orders received which will go towards our secret garden so please consider ordering as many packs as you can! Thank you.

## Dates for your diaries

Half Term	25 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> October
Grand Opening of our Secret Garden	5 <sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm
Children in Need - Show your Spots' cake bake	19 <sup>th</sup> November at 1.20pm
Christmas Party No. 1	7 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Party No. 2	9 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Concert No. 1	13 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Concert No. 2	15 <sup>th</sup> December
End of Term	17 <sup>th</sup> December
Beginning of Spring Term	4 <sup>th</sup> January 2011

Kindest regards

All the team at Westmill Nursery