

Newsletter May 2016

Goodbye Mrs Swindley



Mrs Swindley, our longest serving member of staff has decided to retire in July this year. She has been at Birchfield Nursery for 27 years and over that time has been a key member of the team and valued by all her colleagues and parents, I'm not sure how we will manage without her! We are planning to celebrate her career at the school during the summer term. (Further details to follow)

We will be recruiting a new permanent teaching assistant for September, the advertisement is on the Halton website and the closing date is 13th May.

New Website

Please take a look at our new school website and see what you think. It would be really good if you could put some feedback and comments on Parent View, the link is on the front page.

Massage in Schools Programme

Mrs Patrick recently qualified as a Massage in Schools instructor following 2 days training. This means we can introduce the massage in Schools programme in our nursery. The programme is well established and is used throughout the country.

Massage in schools is an inclusive programme of positive touch and clothed peer massage for young children. Children wear their normal clothes and give a massage to each other on the back, head and arms. Mrs Patrick will teach both the children and their key carer.

Studies have shown that, when children give massage to each other, they will become calmer, concentrate better and have more confidence. This will be of tremendous benefit to the children and the adults with them. It will support their Personal, Social and Emotional development and wellbeing and will also address issues such as awareness of self and others and personal safety.

Following some training by Mrs Patrick over the next few weeks we hope to introduce a daily 15 minute session at the start of the morning or afternoon to settle and focus the children for learning. We will all do it at the same time and use special music to ensure we have a quiet atmosphere in school.

If you would like to find out more, there is a special drop in for parents on **Wednesday 15th June at 10.45am or 2.45pm** in class 5, Mrs Patrick will tell you about the programme answer any of your questions and give you the opportunity to learn and practice some of the massage techniques with your child on the day. If you would like to book a place at the drop in please give your name in to Mrs Long in the office. You can also find out more by viewing www.misa.org.uk and www.massageinschools.com.

All children are asked if they would like to work with a partner for giving and receiving a massage. Please contact the school if you wish to discuss any aspect or have any queries. If your child does not

want to give or receive massage they do not have to. It is important for you to know that they have a choice.

Sun Safety

As the weather is improving and the sun has started to make an appearance, some reminders to help keep your child safe at nursery. Please make sure that your child has a sun hat with their name in it to wear outside and apply sun cream to them **before** they come to nursery.



Sandals- open toed sandals can be quite dangerous for children at nursery as they often get caught when riding bikes and toes get squashed if something falls onto them. Our advice to parents is to put your child in a sandal that is covered and protects the toes or bring them in trainers or shoes.

Dates for your diary

Week beginning 16 th May	Group photographs – will be on sale for £2.00 each
Friday 27 th May	School closes for Whit break – normal times
Monday 6 th June	INSET day – Nursery closed
Friday 10 th June	Queens Party Day – Children to come in fancy dress (Kings and Queens) or come in red, white and blue.
Tuesday 21 st June	Mini Olympics at Wade Deacon High School – Parent/carer volunteers needed who can come with us in their trainers and tracksuits to help all the children join in.
Thursday 23 rd June	Fire Engine visiting Nursery
Monday 27 th June	Art Week – Please provide an old adult size t-shirt for messy activities.
Tuesday 5 th July	Sponsored Bounce Day – To help raise money for school funds. Sponsor forms will be sent home later in the term.
Wednesday 6 th July	Police visiting Nursery
Thursday 7 th July	Celebration / Open Evening – children welcome to come and show their families all the things they have done at nursery.
Friday 15 th July	Leavers Sing Song – Please note due to limited space we ask only 2 adults come and that you don't bring younger children or babies as it can be very cramped and overwhelming for them. This is for families of children leaving this year to go to primary school
Monday 18 th July	Gareth – Music Man
Tuesday 19 th July	Teddy Bears Picnic - Children are asked to bring in their teddy bear/soft toy with a label with their name on it and a small healthy pack lunch and drink. This will be instead of school snack time and we will have it mid-session in our key carer groups with our bears. We will also be doing other fun bear activities during the session
Thursday 21 st July	<u>Last Day of Term</u> Children can come along to nursery on wheeled toys, bikes, scooters, etc or bring along a toy with wheels to play with. School closes early on the last day, doors close 11am and 3pm . Please make sure your child is collected by then at the latest.

Best Wishes
Lindsey Weedall
Head Teacher