

Our Nursery Newsletter Feb 09



Our New Newsletter

Happy New Year and welcome back to our first Newsletter of 2009. We apologise for not producing a Newsletter in December, but have been working hard on the new design of our Website which is due to launch in February. Please let us know what you think, and if you have anything that you would like to see that isn't currently showing, please post your comments in the suggestion box in the reception area?

Change of Details

Please can you make sure that if any of your contact details change, then you make your child's key worker aware so that our records can be updated?

Kiss for Bliss Charity Funday

Bliss is the special care baby charity, that provides vital support and care to premature and sick babies across the UK. On Thursday 19th February, Pennies are holding a Kiss for Bliss fundraising day to help raise money for premature babies. We have many games and activities organised for the day for your children to enjoy and take part in to hopefully raise money for a good cause. Please bring your child in dressed in **red, pink or white**. We are asking for a donation of £1.50. Thank you.

Launch of New Website

Pennies are pleased to announce that we are finally going to launch our new website. The new website launches the middle of February (date yet to be cleared). We love the new design and the ease with which you can navigate the system. We will be constantly updating and adding new information. Please let us know your thoughts on the new design and whether there is anything you would like to see on the website that we currently don't have. We'd really like your feedback.

Welcome Back Sarah Lou

We welcome Sarah Lou back from her maternity leave. She will be back taking up her post of Joint Head of Nursery as from 4th February 2009, and will work alongside Michaela on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Corporate Rates for Hilton Hotel

We have negotiated a corporate membership for our Pennies Parents at the Hilton Hotel. A full membership is £41.00. As part of the membership deal, there is no joining fee, and up to 15% off of food and beverages. The offer expires on 31st March 2009. Please email natalie.larmour@pennies.co.uk if you are interested in signing up.

Text Messaging

We are going to offer a text messaging service to all parents with any important nursery news and updates. To help us would it please be possible to let a member of staff know in your child's room if you change your mobile phone number.

Lee Baddeley, our Nursery Photographer will be coming in to take family photographs on **Saturday 9th May**. There will also be a family session on **Saturday 19th September**. If you would like to take part, please see a member of staff to book a time slot as appointments will be limited. Lee will also be at the nursery on **5th and 6th October** to take fun photographs of the children at play in a studio setting. If you would like your child photographed, please dress them in bright casual clothes. If they are not at Nursery on these days, and you would like to bring them along, please let a member of staff know. Brothers and Sisters are welcome.

Kiss for Bliss

Kiss for Bliss 2009 will be Bliss' second national Valentine's themed fundraising week and will be centred around Saturday the 14th of February. Anyone can get involved by organising a Kiss for Bliss party or any kissing themed fundraising event or activity.

Our Nursery Newsletter Feb 09



Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Claire Barber for winning January's employee of the month. Claire has made an outstanding effort behind the scenes working on the displays over Christmas period and planning other activities around the nursery and on many occasions going beyond her role of a nursery nurse. Congratulations!

Easter Fun Day

This year for Easter we are going to be holding an Easter Fun Day for the children. We are yet to set a date, but we will let you know in the next Newsletter. It will be a fun day for all, with dressing up, party fun, games and an Easter Egg hunt.

Pure Hairdressing

Pure will be at the nursery on 25th February. If you would like your child's hair cut, then please let a member of staff know.

New Starters & Leavers

Mia will be leaving to start her maternity leave and Jackie Bradley will be replacing her,

Jackie has always had a love for children and in between raising her own family she has worked with children within the childcare industry. She went to University and gained a Diploma in teaching children with additional needs she is now keen to gain her NVQ level 3.

Sickness and Diarrhea

Please can we remind parents that if your child has diarrhea and sickness that they have to be clear from any further sickness for at least 48 hours, before they return to the Nursery? We take all of our advice from the Kent Health Protection Unit and the 48 hour exclusion is to safeguard any other child from infection as stated in the national standards for day care for the under 8's HEALTH standard 7. The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

Donation of Old Toys

We would love to hear from you with any old toys, books, games consoles, children's DVD's, musical instruments, board games, arts and crafts etc, that you may be looking at getting rid of after your Christmas clear out. We are always grateful for unwanted items that we can use within the Nursery.

Swimming Lessons

Are you interested in private swimming lessons for your child at The Hilton Hotel? Debbie is an independent teacher who takes lessons during the week, after School and on a Sunday. She works on either a 1:1 or a 1:2 ratio and is a fun, enthusiastic teacher, who is very patient and easy going, who will build your child's confidence in no time. Debbie assesses each child individually and tailors each lesson to suit. Please contact natalie.larmour@pennies.co.uk if you are interested in lessons.

Severe Weather Warning

In view of the recent bad weather we have reassessed our policy for severe weather. If the weather is poor, as it has been recently, we will assess the conditions as the day goes on. On Monday, we kept in contact with the local Schools to find out who was closing early. If Schools close early, due to severe weather, it is not Pennies or PKC's responsibility to collect the children from School and return them to Pennies. We would ask that Parents collect from School and bring them to the After School Club if required, at the club opening times of 3.00pm. We ask that parents also keep up to date with School closures by logging onto the Invicta FM website <http://www.invictafm.co.uk/>. The Nursery at Newnham Court will always open it's doors in bad weather. Should we then feel that the situation is not safe, for children, parents and staff, we will assess on site as to whether we will be sending children home. Should we decide to do this we will always call parents first.

Refund of Deposits

We have recently had some enquiries regarding the refund of deposits, once you leave the Nursery, so just to clarify. The amount will be refunded by direct payment into your bank account the month after your child has left, as long as all fees and any extra charges have been settled. Please call Debbie if you have any further enquiries regarding deposits.

Security and Safety of Children

Again, it has been brought to our attention that the security at the reception doors is being compromised. We cannot stress enough how important it is **NOT** to let each other through the reception doors once you have been buzzed in or on your way out. Please, under no circumstance, let another parent through the doors. Everyone must wait until they have been buzzed through by a member of staff. It is crucial that the safety of the children comes first and we cannot stress this enough. Could we also please ask that if a parent offers to hold the door open for you that you refuse the offer? Please do not jump the door out of politeness. Please can everyone take responsibility as far as the safety and security of the children at the nursery is concerned? Please also let a member of staff know if you have not yet had a fob for the main front doors issued, and you require one? Many thanks.

PKC

Priority in After School Club:

Please note that children with siblings in the Club have first priority for After School Club places, followed by children with siblings at Pennies. Please can you make sure that you complete your booking forms with your requirements and give them to Sheila as soon as you can, as After School are currently running a waiting list, and places are limited.

Daisy Room

This month is Daisy room many of us experienced the snow for the very first time. We all wrapped up warm and went into the garden to build a Snowman and for those of us who didn't get to go out, we bought the snow inside. We have been busy decorating Valentines day cards and making our gifts for kiss for bliss. We have also updated our sensory basket which now includes lots of colourful lights and new textures. We also say goodbye and good luck to Mia this month as she goes on maternity leave to have her little boy. We wish her and her family the very best of luck. Last but not least we say a very happy 1st birthday to Evie and Cerys this month.

Poppy Room

This month in Poppy Room we have been busy preparing for Valentines Day and Kiss for Bliss. The children have been busy with art work to make our charity event a success. We would like to welcome Leah to Poppy room. She has settled in very well and has made lots of new friends. The children have had great fun playing with some of the new toys we have bought for the unit including our toy kitchen that Caroline gratefully made and our sensory light kit. The children (and staff!) are looking forward to our new arrival next month, our new pet hamster, which will be very loved in it's new home.

Buttercup Room

This month Buttercups have had great fun with our topics of senses and Valentines day. We have decorated lots of hearts and made cards for our families. We have also had fun doing a food tasting activity, trying lots of different sweet and sour foods and decorating our sensory display board. This month we also enjoyed playing in the snow and splashing in the puddles. We have also made some tasty valentines biscuits to help raise money for Kiss for bliss

Bluebells Room

This month in Bluebells we have been busy making shape houses, shape printing, painting colourful rainbows and getting messy doing our different colour hand prints for the topic of the month, shapes and colours. We have also celebrated Gracie Goodman and Luke Van De Peer's 2nd Birthdays. We had lots of fun making their birthday cards and singing them Happy Birthday. We've been busy getting ready for our Kiss for bliss day by doing different activities. We would also like to give Sarah King a warm welcome to our unit. Sarah is based in Bluebells.

Daffodils and Tulips Room

This month we are looking at mini beasts. We have been making lots of Ladybirds, bees and slimy worms. We have also been making special cards for our Mummy's and Daddy's and preparing for Kiss for Bliss, by making cakes and decorating our rooms. Daffodils have been exploring with lots of colours and textures and learning to cook jam tarts and rice krispie cakes. Tulips have been celebrating lots of children's 3rd Birthdays so we wish Cameron, Katie, Charlotte, Monty, Joshua, Georgia, Eleanor and Chloe, a very Happy birthday. We would also like to say big congratulations to Jake Mason, Oliver Marks, Adam Topal, Rhys Davis for being our 'Stars of the Week'. In the month of March we will be learning about colours, shapes and numbers and Mothers Day, celebrating more Birthdays and giving out more 'Stars of the Week' awards.

Sunflowers Room

Last month we were learning about the seasons, so we were lucky to have snow in our first week back. We also learnt about Chinese New Year, which started on 26th January. We found out what year we were born in, either the year of the Monkey or Rooster. This month we are learning about our World. If you have anything cultural, recipes, clothing, books etc, about any country that the pre-school children could borrow, please bring them in.

NOTE: Please can you discourage your child from bringing toys into pre-school, as many are getting lost or broken, which is upsetting for the children.

Snowdrops Room

We have been very busy in Snowdrops this month. Our 18 baby snails are growing fast and we have been trying out different foods to see which is their favourite - definitely cucumber! Welcome to our new friends Charlotte Highway, Lucas Sheehan, Abbie Butler, Ethan Collins, Eden Puxty, Isabelle Lewellyn, Rachel Robertson who joined us and are settling in well. Well done to our 'stars of the week' Daniel Lloyd, Sophie Tanner, Billy Ash Codling and Mei Lin Reeves. Our topic has been seasons. We were lucky to have snow and fog for the children to experience. We also made a foggy picture, umbrella and snowman arts and crafts. At the moment we are looking at 'Our World' which incorporates food tasting, role play to see the Queen and a tea party. Please can you ensure that your child has a named welly bag at Nursery?

Snapdragon

Happy New Year to everyone from the PKC team

We would like to welcome Leah Ramsey, Anu Olajide, Kirsty Rowe, Joshua Spice, and Erin Jones, to PKC and hope that they enjoy their time with us.

In this newsletter we would like to draw your attention to a few important points regarding the Clubs :-

- ❖ As we start leaving Pennies by about 8.15 to take the children to school, and we sometimes have to go from one school to another, we stop serving breakfast at 8.00 a.m.
- ❖ Please would you be kind enough to let us know as soon as possible if your child is not going to be in for breakfast or after school club.
- ❖ If your child is to be picked up by someone different to normal, please would you let us know in advance, and give us a pass-word. We have had a number of incidents recently, where we have had to keep people waiting whilst we contact you to verify their identity.
- ❖ If you let us know a month in advance about your child's staff development days, you will not be charged for them.
- ❖ If you wish to change your child's days, or give notice, again please give us a full calendar months notice.
- ❖ We have introduced an informal key-worker system for our reception class children in line with the EYFS. Please see the list on the notice board outside the room.
- ❖ The key worker will be your first point of contact for any problems or enquiries, and will be responsible for handing over to you at the end of the day.
- ❖ April Holiday Club places are going fast, so if you need to book in please return your forms as soon as possible.
- ❖ Please note that if you wish to pre book a place before the brochure is sent out, just ask for a form and once we have received it back with your fee, your place will be confirmed.

PKC Team

Parents Forum

Our next parent's forum will be held on the 6th March 2009. Should you have any ideas or suggestions for the nursery that you would like us to raise on your behalf please email us at penniesparents@hotmail.co.uk

The issues discussed at January's forum were:

- Pennies will shortly be launching their new website, which will be a valuable source of information for parents about all aspects of Pennies nursery
- Pennies staff are to change their uniform. The style is still to be decided
- There will be two parents evening to be held in 2009, details of which will be advertised in the nursery and on their website
- It is likely that the annual summer fundraising fete will not be held this year. Instead it is likely that there will be a number of smaller fundraising events held over the course of the same week culminating in the annual Pennies family bbq at the end of the week

Mum's night out

Our next night out will be held in March (details to follow shortly on our noticeboard in the foyer). Annabel from Phoenix cards will be attending the evening with an opportunity for you to purchase greeting cards from her as well as for you to socialise with other mum's from Pennies.

Place of interest

Have you visited **Shorne Woods Country Park** yet? Shorne Woods Country Park opened to the public last summer. The Country Park is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are nearly 300 acres of park to enjoy and is signposted off the A2 between Gravesend and Rochester and the Cobham/Shorne junction.

What is there to enjoy?

Picnic and play areas – there are two play areas and one is designed especially for older children up to 16 years of age and the other a more traditional one for younger visitors;

Trim Trail and orienteering – both suitable for all abilities; fishing – there are two well stocked fishing lakes and day tickets are available; **Waymarked trails** –there are a series of clearly marked trails. We followed the red route with our 4 year old and 6 year old. This route is 3.1 km long and took us about 2hrs but we did walk very slowly and had to stop and look at every rabbit hole, bug and jump in all the puddles! One of the highlights was visiting the Faerie Ring! There is also an **easy access** trail suitable for prams and wheelchairs.

Cycle routes: There is also a visitor centre with a café serving snacks and meals using locally produced and organic ingredients.

The Park is open every day from 9.00am until dusk. There is a pay and display car park which on a Sunday cost us £2.00 for the day.

It was very muddy when we visited (early Feb) so you may need to take wellies. For further information Tel: 01474 823800 Website: www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

Have you visited somewhere in Kent that you think other parents might enjoy? Let us know and we can review it in the next newsletter.

Kind regards -Caroline, Heather, Libby and Marion



PKC Holiday Club

We have sold out on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for February's Holiday Club, but we still have a few places left on Monday and Friday. Please let Sheila know if you are looking for a place on either of these days?

Monday – Camelot Day Team Games, Magic Skills, Dragon Quest, Hunt The Chalice, Complete the Obstacle Course

Friday –Robin Hood Day Make Robin Swords and Maid Marion Jewellery, Archery Competition, Tug Of War Comp, Quiz, Find Sheriffs Taxes.

We have an open door policy at Pennies. If you ever feel the need to discuss an issue, or want to ask a question, please speak directly with Michaela or Sarah. Alternatively you can email on michaela.stone@pennies.co.uk or newnhamc@pennies.co.uk or call on 01622 737733.

Don't forget to visit our new website:

www.pennies.co.uk