



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012

Welcome back to the Spring Term 2012.

MESSAGE FROM SARA

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope you all had a good Christmas although it seems such a long time ago now and we are all looking forward to spring as the daylight hours increase.

The weather this winter so far has been amazing, so mild. However, things can still change so please be prepared for all weathers when preparing your child to attend Ladybirds as they do enjoy playing outside and it can get rather muddy even without a great deal of rain.

We have also experienced extremely strong winds, which makes it a real challenge as you turn the corner at the top by the Village Hall (Sports and Social Club) to make it to Ladybirds. When it was so windy the children were not expected to play outside but they did enjoy listening to the range of sounds it made as it whistled around the building.

Recently Louise and I popped up to the Primary School to see how the children from last year were getting on. It was wonderful to see how ready they are to learn and develop their skills. We arrived as some children were doing their phonics on the smart board and then the children were getting ready for "Mingle time" their equivalent to free-flow. One child explained that mingle time meant they could go to the other classes and play with their friends. The children knew what was expected, listened to instructions and then went off to find their friends, (funnily enough most of the children went to Mrs Woors.)

It was good to see that introducing free-flow at Ladybirds is a good idea and that school have introduced it as well. There were a couple of things suggested that we could work on a little more such as letters and sounds, scissor and pencil control. These activities are available but we are focusing on them a lot more during our focused learning.

AGM

This years AGM will take place on Wednesday January 18th 2012 7.45pm for 8.00pm start with a presentation on Free-Flow.

ACCREDITATION

Ladybird Pre-school is taking part in the Pre-school Learning Alliance's quality improvement scheme "Reflecting on Quality" as a way of making sure that we constantly seek ways to maintain and improve the quality of the care and education we offer. As parent/carers of children in the setting your views are important, so we would like you to tell us about the things that you think we do well and areas where you believe we could improve. To begin this process there will be a series of hexagons with statements for you to make comments on which will be placed on the notice board out the front of Ladybirds. Later this term you will receive a more detailed questionnaire for you to complete either by email or as a hard copy. If you would like to join a team and support us through the accreditation then please speak to Sara.

HELPING AT LADYBIRDS

We would really like parents/carers to join us for all or part of their child's sessions. If you have a favourite hobby that you would like to share such as cooking, gardening, woodwork or enjoy creative activities, then please come and share them with us and help us to start a new generation of hobbyists. Coming into help also gives us an opportunity to get to know you and for you to see what we do, meet your child's friends and see free-flow in action. Regular helpers need to be Criminal Records Bureau checked; this can be arranged in the office. We would like to say a big thank you to those of you who have already helped at a session and look forward to seeing you again.

SNACKS AND FRUITS

We would like to say a big thank you; the children have been experiencing a wide range of fruit during snack times. They have enjoyed preparing and comparing the differences in the types of apples by taste and appearance. We would like you to continue donating items for snacks as it is proving to be beneficial to the children.

We would also like to encourage children to do more cooking activities. If you would be willing to come in and help us with this by cooking a traditional dish or a favourite family recipe with the children and practitioner, then please let us know. (We do not cook with meat.)

PRE-SCHOOL GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

This year's pre-school group photograph for the children who will be going to school in September 2012 will take place Thursday 24th May 2012 at 9.30am all pre-school children welcome.

Trips

We are currently investigating new places to take the children this academic year for their summer outings. If you have ideas of what type of outing your child enjoys or places that you have been that you would recommend, then please let us know.

FLU

If your child is feeling unwell, coughing and sneezing please keep them at home to look after them and to protect the other children, taking them to the doctors if their symptoms persist. Also try to teach your child about "catch it and bin it" encouraging them to use a tissue and then place it in the bin.

COLLECTING CHILDREN

If there is anyone who must not be allowed to pick up your child, please inform Sara and the Office staff.

If you are arranging for someone different to collect your child, please could you tell your keyworker or the room leader of your child's session and fill in the form in the office. For additional security please provide us with a password on your child's registration card and ensure that anyone picking up knows the password.

For parents of a child, for instance if the child's father brings or picks up their child and he does not usually come every day, please ensure room leaders, your child's keyworker and office staff recognise him, then you do not need to fill in the book each collection time.

PROMPT ARRIVAL AND COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

Please arrive at your child's correct start time, as arriving late can cause disruption to the routine of the day and cause safety issues during free-flow. Arriving on time will ensure your child gets the best service that we can provide. If there is any reason your child is late in attending Ladybirds then please inform the administration team who can make a note of this and see what they can do to help you.

Please can you also be prompt collecting your child. A child can become distressed if they are the last ones left or if everyone is eating lunch and they do not have any. We do not charge for late collection but this may have to be considered as an option as looking after children after hours at the end of the day takes up staff meeting and preparation time.

LOST PROPERTY

As always we have a large amount of lost property, which takes up precious space; please check none of it is yours before we dispose of it.

LUNCHES AND LABELLING

Please note we are unable to accept lunches that have been kept warm in flasks.

LUNCHES ARE NOW FULLY BOOKED ON ALL DAYS. This may change as children turn three years old next term.

There is occasionally a space if a child is away sick or on holiday but you need to speak to Claire or Patricia on the day.

Please note

No nuts or kiwi in lunchboxes are allowed as we have children with serious allergies.

Please could you label lunch boxes clearly on the outside so children and staff can identify them? It is extremely important to avoid children with allergies picking up the wrong lunch box.

OUTSIDE

We go outside in all weathers. Wellies and plimsoles are the best type of shoes for Ladybirds this time of the year. Wellies and a waterproof coat enable children to have fun outside in all weathers. Plimsoles help them to climb easily on indoor equipment.

Children love to go out in all types of weather especially snow and ice (should we see any this winter) as they can spot spiders webs and see icicles hanging off items, as well as chipping away at the ice to see how quickly it melts. These investigations take time to explore effectively so please ensure that your child has warm clothing, layering their clothes is the best way so they can add or remove depending on their own body temperature. I know it is so hard to forget it is cold when travelling to school by car.

POTTY TRAINING

Children do not have to be potty trained to attend Ladybirds. However, it is important that you speak to your keyworker to inform them of your child's needs or if you have any concerns.

Please bring changes of clothes in a clearly labelled bag.

CAR PARK

Small children and car parks are a very dangerous combination. When you are parking your car or backing out of a space, particularly at busy times, please be very aware of little people. We would hate to have to announce an accident in future Newsletters.

FEES

We are a charity and depend on our fees and government funding to pay the bills. Please pay your fees promptly, reminders cost time and money. If you have difficulty with paying fees please speak to Sara or administration staff.

FINALLY

Our aim is for your child to be happy and eager to come to Ladybirds and for you to be pleased with our provision. If you have any suggestions for ways we can improve please speak to Sara , a practitioner or committee member.

Alternatively you can leave a note in our suggestions box. However, it is helpful if you can say who you are so we can discuss things with you.

If you have any concerns or worries please speak to us straight away so we can work together to address them.

Thank you from the Ladybird Practitioners and Committee

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E-MAIL PERMISSION

I give permission for future Newsletters and other mailing to be sent to my e-mail address.

I understand that the Ladybird Pre-school will not divulge my e-mail address to any other party and it will be used entirely for communication between the Ladybird Pre-school and myself.

My e-mail address is: