



## Newsletter April 2009

Joining us in the Summer Term will be Becky Taviner, William White and James Stamp. I'm sure all 3 of them will settle in well and we look forward to welcoming them to Offwell Under Fives.

### Planning Update

As some of you have already seen we now have our new planning board by the stage area. This includes our long term and short term planning along with the current 'children's interest sheet' and continuous provision guidelines. We also have 'WOW!' certificates which we are using to tell you if your child does something special during the session. For those of you who are able to offer parent help you will find your name and tasks on the weekly plan.....don't worry! It's not that scary!

These plans are NOT written in stone and will remain as flexible as your child's interests do!

### Parent Helpers

Thank you again to all of those who have been able to come into Pre-School to be a 'parent helper'. We have managed to run a 'freeflow' session, where the children were able to move freely between the indoors and outdoor area, because we had a parent in and the extra pair of hands made this possible. As the weather continues to improve we would obviously like your children to be able to do this every day.

We will therefore be locking the gates as soon as the last car leaves.

Your help is invaluable so please do keep signing up on the rota.

### Castles and Dragons - next terms topic

As a result of the information you have written on the 'children's interest sheet' we will be doing a mini topic on castles and dragons.

If you have anything at home that you think will be useful please let us know or bring it into Pre-School.

### Allotment Update

As you can all now see our allotment actually looks like an allotment!!

We would like to say a big 'THANK YOU' to all of you who have helped in any way, especially, David (Kay's husband) who organised the purchase of the materials and constructed the boundary fence, with help from Kay, Michele, Suzanne, Grace and Matt. Thanks also to Duncan and Raven for building our planters, Phil for coming down to dig out a raised bed and Jodie for helping make our picnic bench.

Hopefully you all saw our picture in 'View From Honiton' last week?

To make our allotment more colourful we thought it would be nice to have some of the children's paintings (or collages) decorating the fencing.....therefore, perhaps over the Easter holidays the children could do us some lovely fruit and vegetable paintings for us to laminate.

THE BRIGHTER THE BETTER!!!

### **Staff Training**

As you know Michele has now started her NVQ3. She will be having an assessor in to observe her from time to time, Claire Harris.

### **Early Years Advisor**

Our new Early Years Advisor is Maggie, who has taken over from Sue. She will be paying us her first visit on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### **Outdoor clothing**

As we will be making more use of the outdoor area please bear this in mind when dressing your children! We will be going on more walks around the village and obviously digging in the allotment! We also now have the outdoor sand pit and water tray.

We are hoping to start a 'welly bank' to ensure the children have appropriate footwear for the allotment and our walks.....would you be prepared to supply us with some wellies to keep here?

Also, please remember coats/hats/sun hats if needed.

### **Read and Rhyme**

Just a reminder that a 'Read and Rhyme' session is held at Offwell School on a Thursday afternoon @ 3.10pm in the reception class. All children are welcome to join Ms Levoir and the reception children

### **And Finally.....Operational Plans to be reviewed.**

We are once again attaching policies to be reviewed.

Please could you take a few minutes to read and, if you want to make comments/make amendments please let us know.

This is to ensure that all parents/carers have the opportunity to know our policies and, so you are more aware of how Pre-School is run.

This time it is.....Non-Collection of Children and Lost Child Procedure.

Our next Committee Meeting is Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, please feel free to come along even if you are not a committee member.

We are back on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April and Kay will be sending you all a copy of the terms diary during the holidays.

**Kay & Michele**