



## Newsletter September 2009

A BIG welcome to Alexis, Florence, Ewan and Scarlet who have all settled in really well. We also here from Offwell School that Amelie, Dylan, Raven, Remmi and William are enjoying BIG SCHOOL!

### **HEADLINE NEWS!!!!!!**

We are delighted to tell you Michele has now passed her NVQ3 and therefore is now fully qualified as a Pre-School leader. This now enables Michele to cover Kay in her absence. This now presents us a Pre-School with a very strong team.

### **Julie Williams**

Julie is now volunteering on a Monday and Tuesday at Pre-School while she finishes her qualification in 'Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools'. Her assessor will be in to observe her on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **ECERS - Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales**

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, Lesley Ackerman will be in Pre-School to conduct an ECERS Audit. This will be used to create a 'profile' of the provision in all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Kay and Michele will receive feedback along with a target sheet which will be reviewed by our Early Years Adviser on our next annual visit. We have been advised that this is not an inspection: it is intended to give us the opportunity to continually improve and develop.

### **Early Years First Aid.**

Kay and Michele have now renewed their First Aid certificates through St John Ambulance. This qualification enables us to be competent in paediatric first aid within the EYFS for the next three years. Julie also completed the same qualification in July 2009.

### **WOW! Notes.**

It was lovely that so many of you filled these out last term. It brings the children's achievements at home to our attention and is a wonderful addition to their folders. We have now put some blank forms in the main foyer and would love you all to take some home to fill in as and when your child does something new or exciting.

### **Wellies!!!**

We are really keen to start a 'Wellie Bank' at Pre-School. The grass is sometimes damp when we go outside therefore the children are getting wet feet and trousers or we do not allow them to go onto the grass - this is a shame. As OFSTED are encouraging 'freeflow provision' where children go outside in all weathers we need to be able to accommodate this. We can either keep a stock of Wellies here (if you have any spares?), or you can bring them in on a daily basis. Please let us know your thoughts.....

### Harvest Thanksgiving

There will be a Harvest Service in Cotleigh Church on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 11.15 am. Further details are on the poster in the main Foyer.

### AGM - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009

Our AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be held at The Otter in Weston on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm. This is when we invite new committee members on and say 'goodbye' to those whose children have gone up to BIG school - all parents are welcome to attend.

### Key Worker Meetings

We are planning on holding one to one meetings again with you to discuss your child's progress within the Early Years Foundation Stage soon. More information to follow.....

### 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.

### Parent Helpers

Thank you again to all of those who have been able to come into Pre-School to be a 'parent helper'. We are managing to run 'freeflow' sessions on a regular basis, where the children are able to move freely between the indoors and outdoor area, because we have parents in the extra pair of hands make 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. You can just come and play or if you, or a family member, have a special skill or talent you can come and share it with the children.

### Offwell School Visits

Please note, visits to the Reception class will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. We will meet just before 9am in the school playground and you should collect your child from the Reception classroom at 12 noon.

Even if your child doesn't normally attend on these dates they are welcome to join us for the morning.

### 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.....Outings Policy and Behaviour Management Policy

**Kay & Michele**