

# Orchards Day Nursery

## Christmas News Letter



*Dear Parents,*

20<sup>th</sup> November 2004

As Christmas looms on the horizon, I thought it was time to let you know what has happened in the Nursery over the past very busy year. There have been some quite significant changes, most of which I am sure you will have seen for yourself. The building and gardens have benefited from a face lift in the form of new windows and our fantastic new playground, which is a huge hit with all the children. Internally we replaced all the tables and chairs, built new storage in the Pre-School and brightened up the play rooms with a fresh coat of paint. The veranda has been extended to create extra storage in addition to the new shelving and storage box for the mats. Each unit has also benefited from new equipment and toys.



### **Staff News**

Once again, I am pleased to announce, there has been no change to our Senior Staff team which consists of:

Suzanne Gordon – Pre-School Manager, Deputy Nursery Manager

Melanie Travis – Baby Room Manager, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Charge

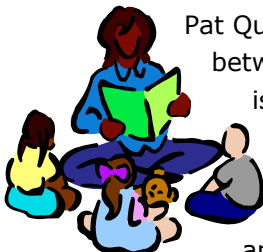
Dawn Barber – Toddler Room Manager

Rachel Barnes – Pre-School Deputy Manager

Assisting Suzanne and Rachel are our regular staff team of Joanna Croston, Holly Haskew and Christina Wheeler. Unfortunately Tina is on long term sick leave following an operation and her duties are being covered by Catherine Barton. Catherine has settled in well and is a big hit with all the children! We all wish Tina a swift return back to full fitness!

We recently employed Alanna Germon to join our Toddler team. Alanna completed several of her student placements from Stockport College with us. Having successfully passed her BTEC Qualification, Alanna was offered a full time job at Orchards and has settled in very quickly. Joining Dawn and Alanna in the Toddler Room are Louise McCarthy and Louise Cox. After 2 years of diligent study, Louise Cox has recently passed her NVQ Level 3 in Childcare and Education. Well done Louise!

After an absence of several years we were delighted to welcome back Heidi Robinson and Pat Quinn to our Baby Room. Heidi and Pat work on a job share basis and between them have a wealth of childcare experience. Melanie's Baby team is completed by Linzi Millard.



Each child in the Nursery is now assigned a Key Worker; these staff are responsible for ensuring your child receives the best possible care and education whilst attending Orchards. If you are unsure who your child's Key Worker is please speak to their Senior Staff.

Our downstairs team of Nicky Prosser and Diane Cullen continue to tempt the children with their culinary delights whilst Joan Malone works hard to keep the nursery looking and smelling clean and fresh.

## **A New Baby**

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Niall and Sharon on the arrival of their second child. Baby Max Alexander Hazelton Gover entered the world on Monday 1 November, weighing a very healthy 7lb 12 oz. Both Max and Sharon are doing well.



## **Past and Future Events**

The **Orchards Fun Day** held in July in aid of Francis House Hospice was a huge success, despite the monsoon conditions. It really was wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents turn out in support. Through your generosity we raised a magnificent £1535.00. From the staff at Orchards and the staff and children at Francis House Hospice, a very big thank you to everyone who helped make this possible.

This year's trip to **Stockley Farm** was, once again, a memorable day. The children benefited from lots of "hands on" experiences and as usual there was plenty of snoring to be heard on the way home; from the children as well as the dads!!!

The Toddler and Pre-School children's fun version of **Halloween** was enjoyed by all. The spooky cakes and spider jelly were particular favourites, along with Suzanne and Joanna's delicious pumpkin soup!

The annual **Pre-School Christmas Concert** will be held on the afternoons of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December. The children have begun practicing the songs and I am sure that, come the day of the play, you will know them by heart as well. This means there will be no excuse for a lack of audience participation. As ever, I will be on hand as Mary's midwife. I only hope I remember to deliver Baby Jesus on cue this year! The booking form will be displayed in the Pre-School cloakroom nearer to the time. Please join us after the performance for a glass of mulled wine and Nicky's delicious mince pies.



We are expecting a special visitor (see picture, right) at the **Christmas Party** which is to be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December. I have been reliably informed that we are booked for an afternoon visit and would like to invite any **Pre-School** children, who would not normally attend nursery on that afternoon, to join us from 1:00pm. As clearing up takes so long on this day, we must ask that these children are collected by 3:45pm.

Once again we have booked the services of Lee Fletcher, from **Hidden Vision Videos**, to film the lead up to Christmas, the Nativity and the Christmas Party. Any parents who bought one of these videos (or DVD's) last Christmas will know how magical they are to

watch again and again. They also make unique presents for Grandparents, Aunties and Uncles!

We have worked hard over the years to maintain good relationships with the local colleges. This became evident when Ridge Danyers College asked us to accept a **French Exchange Student** for a week. This was a fantastic experience for the Pre-School children and gave them the opportunity to learn some key French words first hand. The children coloured in French flags and maps of Europe, enjoyed a continental breakfast of croissants and jam and an afternoon snack of french bread and soup.

## **Planning Appeal**

Unfortunately, and despite a huge amount of support from you all, our planning permission to extend the nursery by 25 places was turned down AGAIN. It appears the councillors did not agree that The Heatons are becoming starved of good quality childcare and were more concerned about the effect of an extra 12 cars per day!

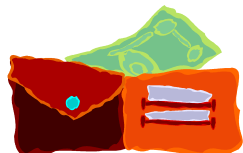
## **Quality Counts**

I am delighted to inform you that we have now joined an elite group of nurseries by being awarded the National Day Nursery Associations prestigious Quality Counts accreditation. The 'QC' kitemark is an indicator of the high quality service we are always striving to provide.

Working towards this goal has enabled us to review all aspects of our nursery service, ensuring we provide the highest level of care and education for your child as well as meeting your needs as parents.



## **3 and 4 Year Old Grants**



Through our commitment to delivering the Governments 'Foundation Stage Curriculum' we continue to meet the criteria for claiming the grants on your behalf.

Funding is now universal for **all** children over the age of 3 and your child becomes eligible the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The current amount being paid is **£418.00 per term**, for children attending nursery for 5 sessions or more per week. Children attending less than 5 sessions will receive a pro-rata payment. For more details please speak to myself or Niall.

## **Requests**

As ever, the nursery continues to remain busy, and we have very few spare sessions. For this reason we must insist that extras or swaps are booked as far in advance as possible. Failure to bring your child in for a requested change of day will result in losing your original day or in the case of an extra, being charged the full fees applicable for that day.

To enable the staff to keep a track of the children's belongings it would be appreciated, and extremely helpful, if clothing, hats, scarves etc could be clearly labelled. For children in the baby and toddler rooms could you please also label shoes.

In the event of your child having an accident or becoming unwell, it is essential we are able to locate you as quickly as possible. Could you please remember to inform the Senior Staff member in your child's room if there are any changes to the telephone numbers previously given.

## **Closing Dates Reminder**

The nursery will close for Christmas on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.00pm, re-opening at 8.00am on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

## **And Finally.....**

It's true what they say; children really do say the funniest things. Here are some comments made by the children which made us laugh:

When asked if she had been to see her new baby **Charlotte Gover** replied "Yes, at the dentist." Staff asked her if she meant the hospital but Charlotte replied, adamantly, "No, at the dentist!"

**Arlette Evans** was sat on the toilet when she asked staff where Solomon was, adding "Is he on holiday?" She was told that Solomon had gone to big school to which she answered "But I am going to marry him."



Whilst waiting at a pedestrian crossing, on a trip out to the pet shop, **Trinity Perruzza-Powell** was asked to wait for the green man before crossing. She pointed across the road and said "Here's the green man." Staff looked in the direction she was pointing and saw a council workman dressed all in green.

**Cameron Baillie** told staff he had built an aeroplane, adding "It only has two wings." Staff reminded Cameron that aeroplanes only need two wings, to which he replied "Yes, but these are both on the same side."

***From Niall, Sharon and all the staff we would like to thank you for your custom during 2004, and wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

*Joanna Worley,  
Nursery Manager*