

Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

Portico Poppets, 1 Leicester Street, Thatto Heath, St Helens WA9 5QH

T. 01744 811112 www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



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Dear Parents

Welcome to our Autumn 2009 newsletter.

Dates for your diary

Just to remind you that nursery will be closed for two weeks over the Christmas period. We close on Friday 18th December 2009 and will re-open on Monday 4th January 2010.

It gives me great pleasure to announce this year's Christmas play dates and times.

Pre-school performance - Tuesday 8th December 09 at 2pm

2-3's performance - Wednesday 9th December 09 at 2pm

Baby room performance - Thursday 10th December 09 at 2pm.

Due to the sizes of the rooms we are only able to distribute 2 tickets per child for the performances for the specified day. We know some of you may be a little disappointed with this decision as some you like to bring along other relatives but I am sure some of you are aware from previous years that it gets extremely crammed in the room which enables all parents and carers to see their child perform.

I hope we have given you ample notice of these dates and you are able to come along and enjoy the performance as it is quite a lovely experience seeing your child in their first Christmas play.

As some of you are aware we do hold a photograph and camcorder policy. With the Christmas play coming up we are aware that some of you will want to take pictures and video the event to look back on. Nearer the time I will be sending out consent slips to each family and asking whether



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any parent/carer object having their child photographed or videoed. If one comes back with an objection from each room then unfortunately I will at liberty to object any parent/carer from taking photo's or videoing. I apologise if this causes any inconvenience but I have to take all parents wishes into consideration and hope you understand our decision when the time comes. You will however be fine taking pictures of your own child dressed up at the end of the performance.

Nursery Christmas party will be held on Tuesday 15th December, 1.30pm till 3.00pm. If your child is not in attendance on that day then please bring them along to nursery at 1.30pm. Please can I stress that you ensure your child is picked up by 3.00pm prompt.

On Monday 26th October we are having a little tea party to celebrate nurseries 7th birthday. Also on that day we will be visited by the Mayor of St.Helens Councillor Terry Shields. The mayor will be taking a look at our beautiful refurbished nursery and chatting to staff and children about everyday life at nursery.

We have been approached by the Community food and Nutrition team based in St.Helens and over the next few months we will be visited by their representatives who will be carrying out, along with staff, some activities. One of them is called Tempting tots which will be a physical activity followed by a food tasting session such as fruit and vegetables. The other group activity is called Sow, Grow and Eat. This is a story telling session which is followed by the children planting seeds and bulbs and caring for them. I am sure the children will have lots of fun and learn new things.

Nursery refurbishment



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I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support and patience whilst all the work was being complete on the nursery.

All the work is now fully complete and nursery is now running back to normal with all children back into their room. We are really pleased with our new nursery and would like to say thank you for all your lovely comments about the completed work and the decoration of the rooms.

All the girls worked extremely hard to decorate the rooms on completion and to get ready for the open day, so well done to all the girls and thank you for your hard work.

The open day was a fantastic event and went brilliantly with a wide range of things going on like face painting and games, tours of the nursery, a lovely range of food and drink for all to enjoy and the release of the balloons to signify the end of the building work. All who attended had nothing but praise and wonderful comments regarding the difference of the building. It was also nice to see all the families here from past and present as well as staff from here and the other nurseries offering their support. So thank you again.

Hopefully in the next couple of weeks there will be a write up and photograph in the paper regarding the evening so if your child was present on the evening, look out for a picture in the local papers.

Since having the work done a couple of things have come to light that we really have not seen as a problem before. From October this year we will not be allowing any kind of outdoor shoes within the nursery baby room. All baby room staff will wear slippers inside the rooms and any other persons entering the room are not allowed inside unless they remove their shoes or put the blue shoe covers that are provided outside the baby room door. We apologise if this causes any inconvenience but we are thinking of the babies



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that are constantly crawling on the floor and have their best interests and health in mind.

If your child is in the garden then please use the 2-3's new entrance or the kitchen if it is out of use. A member of staff will direct you of the correct route.

Can I also remind all parents to make a conscious effort to come in to baby room at the end of the nursery day to collect your child. I have noticed on a few occasions that children are being handed over at the doorway of baby room and I think that it is really important for your child to see their parent and carer communicating and doing the correct transition at the end of the day ensuring all messages have been passed over.

ICT EQUIPMENT

All the rooms have recently received a lot of new ICT equipment. It arrived last week and was distributed to each room. I felt like Father Christmas with my bag of toys when giving it to the children and they were all so pleased to receive some new fresh equipment to play with. Children are having fun exploring and investigating with new tills, hoovers, microwaves, hairdryers, beebots, remote control cars, microscopes, tuff cams, metal detectors, walkie talkies, computer games and equipment and lots more.

Paying methods

Most of our parents are now on the direct debit system. From personal experience I find this the best form of payment as you are informed 10 days before the monies is taken out and it is transferred at the beginning of the month so you know how much is left in your account once the transaction has been made. Unfortunately this may



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not work for all parents as they are paid on different times of the month and we are unable to change the direct debit date but if you are not yet on the direct debit system and are interested please feel free to come and speak to me or pick up a form and we will get you set up as soon as possible.

Can I also remind all parents to ensure that they are paying nursery fees on time. Weekly payers need to pay the week's fees up front and on your child's first weekly session whether it is by cash or cheque. Monthly payers who pay by cash or cheque need to pay fees in advance at the beginning of the month. Failure to do so will result in a late payment charge.

Parents who are paying by cash or cheque can I please remind you to ensure that you sign the paying in form. This is to enable us and yourselves reassurance that the payment has been paid and keep track of all payments handed over to whom and when.

If parents pay by childcare vouchers could you please ensure that you notify the voucher company and ask them to put **GD7** and your child's name as reference. Ideally we would like your child's first and second name on as reference but if your child's name is too long then please abbreviate first and second names so we know who the voucher comes from.

Can I please remind all parents who's children are still in nappies and using wipes and cream to ensure they are bringing in the correct amount for the day at nursery. Also, if a staff member informs you that your child needs more nappies and wipes please can you bring them in as soon as possible as on occasions staff has had to use other children's nappies and I am sure you will agree it is not cheap to buy nappies and wipes and we do not have spare in nursery.

Also, could all parents ensure that now winter is setting in that children have a fresh batch of clothes in nursery along with wellington boots and a winter coat, gloves, hat and scarf.

Children still go outside on a daily basis no matter what the weather is like and as you can



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imagine can get wet and muddy at times as well as cold. It is very important that children go outside and receive a good amount of fresh air, so if you could make a conscious effort to pack the items in their bags as if not we are unable to take them outside. We treat winter the same as we do summer and we would not take the children outside if they did not have the sun cream and sunhats on.

NEW STARTERS

We would like to welcome all the new children and their families to our nursery- Emily, Zachary, Albie, Oliver, Scott, Elliot, Max, Pranav, Andre, Harry, Owen, Paige, Jasmine and Lorna, all the children have settled in very well and we hope your time here is very enjoyable.

MOVING ROOMS

Over the last couple of weeks children have been moving rooms and settling into their new rooms with the new key workers. Again all children have settled in well thanks to the hard work from staff and parents to help the transition run smoothly.

NEW ARRIVALS

We would like to congratulate Eleanor Webster and family on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter/sister Madeline. Welcome to the world baby girl!

BIRTHDAYS

Aidan and Adam will be celebrating their 4th birthdays

Grace, Millie and Lydia will be celebrating their 3rd birthdays



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Halle and Pranau will be celebrating their 2nd Birthdays

Victoria will be celebrating her ? birthday. Unfortunately I am unable to reveal her age but let's say it is not far from 21.... again!!!!

I am sure you will join me in wishing them all a very happy birthday.

STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Natalie from pre-school who won our staff member award for this term.

Natalie gained the award for her continued loyalty, commitment and dedication to her job role and her continued hard work to complete her EYFD at collage.

I would like to mention Vicki Cardwell who is the manager at Portico Poppets in our newsletter. Some of you may know Vicki from being with us for quite some time as she use to work here which seems a very long time ago. Vicki started with us as a student and as worked her way up to manager and through her sheer hard work and commitment to her job role as just won our very first staff member of the year award. So from one nursery to another, well done Vicki, you deserve it.

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter and if any of you have any concerns, questions, queries or would like any advice please do not hesitate to contact me, my door is always open.

**Regards
Debbie x**



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