

## Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

---

Dear Parents

Welcome to our spring newsletter 2010. We hope you had a lovely Easter break.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND REMINDERS**

For all our new families that have started with us recently, this year nursery will be closing on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and we will be re-opening on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Nursery will also be closed Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 due to bank holidays.

Prestige Pictures will also be coming into nursery to take your child's photograph. They will be coming into nursery on the 29<sup>th</sup> June and again if your child is not in n that day then we will make arrangements for you to bring your child along in the morning session. Please look out for information nearer the time.

I will be on holiday from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July and will return back to work on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010. If you have any questions or queries during this time then please speak to Claire and Victoria. Nicole is always at hand so if you need to speak to her then let the girls know and they can get in contact with her for you.

Could I please remind all parents that if you have not already done so could you bring in a sunhat and sun cream for your child? This just ensures that all children are safe playing in the garden and if the weather continues



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: [Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk](mailto:Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk)

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

Registration Nos. EY222717 & EY314827

## **Portico Day Nurseries Ltd**

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

to get hotter your child would not be able to enjoy the sunshine as we will not be able to allow them outside.

Also, could I remind all parents of our opening hours and sessions? We are open at 8am each morning and are unable to take children before this time due to insurance and we close at 6pm each night. Morning sessions are 8am-1pm and afternoon sessions are 1pm -6pm. Would all parents please ensure that these sessions are kept to and that children are being picked up and dropped off on time. We, by law, have to stick to ratios and we do not want to be put in a situation where something could happen and we are not insured to have your child on site.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support.

We had a great response to our parents evening and some wonderful feedback. The girls worked so hard and it is really uplifting when they get such positive feedback and support for their efforts.

I would also like to thank you for your feedback from the annual questionnaires. We had a wonderful response with some outstanding comments and great suggestions. Myself, Nicole and staff have looked at these comments and suggestions and will implement as much as possible.

Please find a feedback letter at the back of this newsletter.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: [Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk](mailto:Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk)

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

## Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

May 4<sup>th</sup> was National Fire fighter's Day. I am also going to try and organise a trip to the fire station as well as try to organise a visit from the fire truck to nursery in the next few weeks. Fingers crossed!

As most of you are aware the World cup starts very shortly. This is a great opportunity to get children interested in sports and geography and carry out a whole range of exciting activities. We will be organising football match's in nursery so over this period so staff will be asking for your child to be provided with appropriate footwear.

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010 staff, parents and children will be going to Chester Zoo for the day. If the day goes well (I am sure it will) then I will be organising more trips to other places in the future. Look out for pictures of our day displayed in nursery in the next few weeks.

Week commencing the 21<sup>st</sup> June is bring your bear to nursery week. We would ask if your child could bring along their favourite bear to nursery as we have got lots of activities and fun planned for that week such as a bear hunt, teddy bears picnic, art and craft and a pyjama day. Staff will inform you of this nearer the time.

Miss Sarah who teaches some of our 2-3's and pre-school children on a Thursday afternoon for dancing is continuing this into the next term. A six week course cost £12 with each session lasting for approx 45 minutes. If your child does not attend on this day please feel free to drop your child off for the session and collect them at the end. If you are interested for your child to start this then please ask a member of staff and I will pass on the details.

I am sure most of you have heard of Leaps and bounds or Tumble tots or have seen them advertised on the T.V. We use to have them coming to our nursery to carry out sessions with the children and they have approach us again to see if we are interested. I have



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: [Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk](mailto:Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk)

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

## Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

taken leaflets from them and said that I would see if any parents were interested in their child participating and that I would contact them when I have had a response. I have attached the information to the back of the newsletter. Please fill in the form and return it back to me.

## COOL MILK

We have just started a new scheme called cool milk. This scheme ensures that we are supporting children in getting their recommended daily milk allowance into their diet whether it be in a drink, on their breakfast or added to their food. We have always ensured that children are offered milk throughout the day but this scheme ensures that fresh milk is delivered daily and that there is enough for every child in the setting.

## STAFF INFORMATION AND COURSES

Hannah has now been taken on as a member of staff and is working alongside Louise and Vicky in the baby room.

Rosie has completed her NVQ level 2 after a lot of hard work and commitment so well done Rosie.

Congratulations to Stephanie and Michael on the birth of George James Bowers born on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010 weighing 8lb and 13 and a half ounces. Well done Stephanie.

We are still waiting for news of the arrival of Louise the cooks baby but we will keep you informed.

Stacy won our staff member of the term award for her hard work, organisation and commitment to the children and ensuring that each child's interests were met in the planning. WELL DONE STACY.



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: [Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk](mailto:Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk)

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

## Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

We are now having a new award called room of the term. Each term I will be observing the staff in their rooms and watching to see the kinds of activities going on, such as, child's interests met, sand, water, play dough are being set up for children, teeth brushing and hand washing being carried out correctly and the amount of messy and arty activities going on.

This term 2-3's have won this for the amount of arty activities that have been carried out and having a vast array of displays that cater to the children's needs and interests. They have wonderful relationships with the children and parents and areas such as the home corner is changed all the time to keep children interested.

WELL DONE TO ALL THE GIRLS IN 2-3'S.

Over the last couple of months and continuing on through the year, staff are attending a range of courses to broaden their knowledge of childcare and ensure they are up to date with the latest legislation. Natalie, Victoria and I have all attended safeguarding courses and Louise is booked on one in the next few weeks. I have attended and am booked on a range of courses over the next few weeks such as the stepped approach with Stacy and I have also started a course called quality matters which ensures that myself and staff are providing the best possible service we can. I also attended a healthy food and special diet training day and passed very comfortably as I have just received my certificate to say that I passed the test!

Natalie has just completed her first aid and Louise, Vicky and Hannah will be attending a range of courses to help them with their planning skills.

### **STEPPED APPROACH-Enhancing our outdoor environment**

**Stacy and I are about to start an eight day course over the next year funded by Sure Start St. Helens called Stepped Approach. It helps us to enhance the outdoor learning environment and gives us fresh ideas to help support staff to provide a welcoming and explorative place to learn.**

**As some of you may have noticed we have already started to too improve our outdoor area and have purchased some new equipment for the children to investigate and explore.**

**Over the coming months we will be getting new equipment from these courses and the first intake of equipment will help us enhance our water play for outdoors with equipment such as tunnels, pipes and essential wet play suits for the children. We look forward to exploring the new equipment in the future.**

### **SCHOOL LEAVERS**



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: [Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk](mailto:Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk)

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

Registration Nos. EY222717 & EY314827

## Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

It has come to that time of year again when we will soon be saying good-bye to some of our pre-school children who will be leaving nursery to attend BIG school. Some of our children in pre-school have been with us since the baby room and we make sure that the children are well prepared and the transition to school is as smooth as possible. We are currently speaking to schools regarding reception teachers visiting our nursery and hopefully try and have the children visit their new school with the nursery staff. We are being visited by Miss Lee the reception teacher at Eccleston Lane Ends on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May so she is able to meet our children in their environment and then we are going to arrange visits to the school. We will keep all parents posted regarding school visits and if it will be possible for all schools to participate in the visits.

If any pre-school parents as any idea when their child will be leaving could you please inform a member of pre-school staff as soon as you know so you are not invoiced for sessions in later months?

## **ROOM MOVERS AND NEW STARTERS**

During this term children will be starting a new adventure in their new rooms. Staff ensure that this transition runs smoothly and work together with staff and parents to ensure that the children move to their new room with ease. Staff make sure that the children have sufficient visits and that all the relevant information is sent over to the new key worker.

Children make that move this term is-

Liam, Sara, Eleanor, Amber and Emily will be moving to pre-school.

Hetti, Rowan, Grace, Elysee and Rhianna will be moving to 2-3's and would like to welcome Ava, Katie, Ryan and Arthur who have joined our baby room.

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS TERM-**



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: [Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk](mailto:Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk)

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

## Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

---

*Zak, Jack, Nell, Lorna, Samuel, Leilani and Zachary will be celebrating their 4<sup>th</sup> birthdays.*

*Eleanor, Amber and Emily will be celebrating their 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthdays.*

*Rowan and Grace will be celebrating their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.*

*Jacob, Ryan and Katie will be celebrating their 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.*

*Also happy birthday to Louise, Vicky Storey, Steph and our new cook Angela.*

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

**Please remember if you ever want to chat my door is always open.  
You can also contact me through email. My address is  
[debbie@portico.biz](mailto:debbie@portico.biz).**

**Kind regards,  
Debbie**



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

Registration Nos. EY222717 & EY314827

## Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

---

# ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE FEEDBACK

We would like to thank all of you who returned your questionnaires back to nursery. We had an amazing response this year with some fantastic comments and suggestions.

From the questionnaires we received we were marked on the OFSTED grading system and we received a fantastic 122 outstanding marks, 87 good marks and 1 satisfactory mark.

We are so pleased with the feedback and it has really lifted the girl's spirits even more to know that you appreciate the work that they do with your children. Here are a few of the comments that were noted and I hope you are happy with the outcome.

- More organised trips and children go out on walks not just stay in the garden.

We have organised a trip to Chester Zoo, something we have never done so we will see how this goes and will definitely organise more trips at the weekend.

When children are in pre-school we do arrange trips to the library on the train and to the local parks, post box and shop as well as Taylor park on the bus.

We do only do this when the children are in pre-school as we can keep to the ratio of 1 adult to 2 children and if we were to go during nursery hours with the younger children we would not be able to keep to these guidelines when leaving the building as the younger children need a 1 to 1 ratio when out in public with nursery staff.

- Babysitting?

If you would like a member of staff for babysitting please speak to that person to make arrangements. Portico day nurseries Ltd does not accept responsibility or liability if parents arrange for staff to care for their children out of nursery hours. This is the full responsibility of the parent or carer.

- Maybe a communication book instead of daily diary sheets, so parents can write messages for staff as sometimes I am in a rush to get to work and may forget to inform staff of relevant information.

We use to have communication books in the past but we found that some were not brought in or lost and the sheets came in for convenience. But if any parent would prefer a book to a sheet then please feel free to mention this to your child's key worker and we can get this sorted for you.

- Planters around the front of the building-maybe children could help with the planting and care of these?



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: [Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk](mailto:Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk)

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

## Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

I don't know if some of you have noticed but we have recently had a digging and planting area put in the back garden so children being able to plant are well under way. We will definitely look into decorating the front of the building and getting the children involved in that.

- Modern foreign languages would be great, e.g Dora-spanish

A couple of parents have mentioned this and I have done some research and at the moment a lady named Sonia attends our other nursery Portico Kindergarten in Ormskirk and teaches the pre-school children there simple words, colours, songs, numbers and carries out activities on a weekly basis. Each session costs £3.00 for 30 minutes. If any parents with children in pre-school are interested then please inform a member of staff and I will contact her if we have enough parents interested.

- There did not seem to be a plan in place on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of snow in January.

Like everybody in the country we were quite surprised at the upheaval the snow brought to the country and how much health and safety issues came into force. Some staff were able to get to work on that morning but were unable to open due to staffing issues and of course the health and safety of the staff and children getting to work and nursery. We have however put a plan in place if this happens again and have added it to our policies. Please see policy file in hallway.

- Can we have more recipes like we use to receive?

Thank you for this comment as I think it is important that the children are introduced to a wide variety of meals at nursery and at home and I have attached a couple of meal ideas that we are going to introduce on our Summer menu.

- Some nurseries also run after school clubs which would be helpful.
- Possibly school/nursery pick up in the future

We have a lot of requests for this every year and we have as a company have looked into it but unfortunately we have been unsuccessful. Even the last 12 months Craig and Nicole have tried to buy land off the golf course to extend our car park and make room for an afterschool club but with the golf club up for sale they are unable to do so at this time. However we will endeavour to try and make this happen in the future.

I would like to thank everyone who put forward the suggestions in the questionnaire and I hope I have answered them well for you. These comments make us look at the



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: [Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk](mailto:Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk)

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

## Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

way we run our nursery and above all ensure that we have a good parents and partners policy in place and that our children are happy in the nursery environment. We will continue to do our best to ensure that your views are heard which will ensure we are providing a better service to you and your family. If any parents do have any other further suggestions please speak to myself or a member of staff or please use our suggestion tree in the hallway.

Here are just a few of the many comments we received that really made us smile-

- “It is very obvious how much the staff care about the children- we will be sad to leave after 7 years!”
- “a fabulous team, we have been delighted with all the staff” “keep doing what you do so well Thank you”
- “The outdoor play area is excellent and the children do appear to be out at every opportunity. They all love it”
- “can’t fault the staff, they all appear to genuinely love their job and care very much for the children”
- “I would like to thank all staff at Portico as I still feel that everyone treats my child as they would their own child”
- “we thoroughly enjoy taking our daughter to Portico, staff are very happy to talk to us at the end of the day”
- “I am happy to say this is the best nursery for my child and I would recommend to my friends”
- “I feel this is a very well run nursery and feel at ease leaving my child whilst at work”
- “very happy with the service provided-means I can work with the peace of mind that my child is being well cared for”
- “Thank you”



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: [Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk](mailto:Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk)

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

# Portico Day Nurseries Ltd

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

T. 01744 811112 [www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk](http://www.PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk)

Info@PorticoDayNurseriesLtd.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5720805



**PORTICO**  
Day Nurseries Ltd

We would like to say thank you for all your fantastic comments. It really makes our job more worthwhile than it already is. It certainly makes it a great pleasure coming to work!

## RECIPES

### African fruity chicken and rice

#### Ingredients

Table spoon of oil,

1 large onion

2 cloves of garlic

Small bowl of sultanas

Mushrooms

Corriander, rosemary, cinnamon –fresh or dried

Chicken

1 or 2 tins of tomatoes

Rice

#### Recipe

Add a little oil in a large pan and fry onions mushrooms and garlic. Add chicken pieces and fry till browned.

Add sultanas, rosemary, coriander and cinnamon and mix all together.

Add tomatoes and a little water and simmer for 45 minutes. Cook rice and serve.

### Paella

#### Ingredients

1 large onion

Garlic

Red/green peppers

Turmeric

Chilli powder

Parsley

Peas-frozen or fresh

Fish-frozen or fresh

#### Recipe

Cook fish. Add a little oil to a large pan and fry onion, garlic and peppers. Add turmeric, parsley and chilli powder and mix all together.

Add a little water then add peas and fish and stir in well. Simmer for 15-30 minutes or till ingredients are cooked through.

Cook rice, add paella and serve.

You could add prawns or other fish ingredients as well as other vegetables to taste for older children.

### ENJOY



ALSO AT: Portico Lodge, Portico Lane, PRESCOT L35 7JS

T: 0151 430 8005 E-Mail: Info@PorticoLodge.co.uk

N.A.Politis Director, C.E.Jackson Director

Registration Nos. EY222717 & EY314827