

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 spring newsletter. We hope you had a lovely Easter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 6TH 2008 – TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

Nursery is having a teddy bears picnic for the children that attend nursery on this day. Children are to bring in their own teddy for the day and we will be having lots of fun and games indoors and outdoors. Staff will remind you near the date.

JULY 16TH 2008 – BALLOON RACE

The annual balloon race will be taking place on Wednesday 16th July starting from 5.00pm. There will be lots of fundraising and games going on please look out for posters of games going on nearer the date. Tickets for the balloon race will be on sale soon. If any of you work for or know someone from a company that may be able to donate a raffle prize, let us know – we have a fab golfing prize so far, courtesy of Eccelston Park Golf Club and some money saving tickets on days out for your family. Morrisons have also donated some wine.



AUGUST 11TH-15TH 2008 – MINI OLYMPICS

With the Beijing Olympics just around the corner nursery has decided to get into the spirit of the Olympics and host our very own mini Olympics in the nursery garden.

This will take place the week beginning 11th August and will be carrying on throughout the week enabling all children to participate in all sorts of fun activities and winning their very own gold medals for taking part.

SO GOOD LUCK TO ALL CHILDREN.

SCHOOL STARTERS

For pre-school parents whose children are leaving us this summer to start school in September, could you please inform nursery of your Childs leaving date as soon as possible so we can arrange start dates and room visits from children in the 2-3's room.

HOLIDAY TIME

If you are one of the lucky ones who are able to get away from it all with a nice relaxing break or holiday could you please inform nursery of dates your child is absent from nursery so we can print them as on holiday on the registers. Thank you.



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

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

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We are hoping to get some glorious weather this year enabling us all to spend more time outside so can we ask all parents to bring in some new sun cream and sunhats and this may give the summer sunshine a kick start.

We would like to thank all parents who attended parents evening and all the parents who took time out to fill in their questionnaires and give us feedback. We were a little disappointed with the amount of questionnaires we received back as out of 60 parents only 13 sent in their forms. So if you have a spare 5 minutes to fill in the questionnaire it would be much appreciated as your comments and thoughts help us to improve our service and standard of care you and your child receive.

The questionnaires are situated in the entrance hall and you can post your comments in the box provided.

Here are a few questions answered from your questionnaires.

The webcam and CCTV enquiry as been discussed already in the past and we are looking into this to be set up for the future.

Sarah Debbie and Claire have set up a meeting in the next few months to discuss the Christmas play as a few comments were posted about the space and the fact a lot of parents brought more than 2 relatives with them which affected some parents and carers being able to see properly. We have definitely decided that each child will be issued 2 tickets for the performance and that each separate room will be doing their own performance and we will give you all the information in the autumn term.

We have logged comments regarding earlier opening times. If this becomes a regular request we will look into how to work this out for the future.

We had a comment regarding "share" time for parents and other carers to spend time in nursery to do activities. Can we remind you that this is a continuous thing that we do in nursery and invite all carers to come in and carry out an activity whether it be reading a story, doing an art activity or baking with the children this is a good way for you to see what happens in nursery and what kind of things your child gets up to.



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We are in the middle of completing our summer menu so when we have printed it off we will send a copy home with all the details of ingredients and what variety of fruit and vegetables are on offer on a daily basis.

We would like to thank all parents and carers who continue to send in tesco computer for school vouchers. We have received 2000 so far so please keep them coming. We have just received our order from the sport vouchers and will be having lots of fun with them in the garden, so thank you again for the continued support.

We have had a couple of comments from parents enquiring why groups such as mini maestros and leaps and bounds have stopped.

The reason we have decided to stop mini maestros is that staff feel that the sessions were of no extra benefit to the children. You were also paying a lot of extra money on top of nursery fees for something your children did in nursery anyway!!

However the staff felt that the rooms coming together occasionally was beneficial to the children and staff so we are going to hold our very own mini maestros sessions once a month with all the children coming together to do a big music session and other types of activities.

The first session will be held on Monday 12th May for children attending nursery and will be changed to a different day enabling all children and staff to participate.

We look forward to the first session.

We are always on the look out for different types of groups to bring into nursery that the children will enjoy and the reason why leaps and bounds was cancelled was that it was not getting enough children attending and not in high demand as we first thought. So if you know of any groups that you feel your child and nursery would benefit from then please inform a member of staff and we will look into it.

Speaking of groups, nursery is very excited in the announcement of our new group for our mums, dads, grandparents etc. It is 'Friends of Portico' and will be taking place in our staff room with refreshments provided on Monday 14th April starting at 3.45pm onwards. Please feel free to attend and discuss with other parents and carers issues and to get to know each other a little better.

Following dates will be timetabled by people attending.



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Nursery garden is due for a re-furb next month and we are very excited in baby room as we are going to have a separate fenced area for all our babies to play in a much safer environment. Also we are having new bark laid in the garden and also we are going to discuss with our gardener to do a separate area for a vegetable patch to enable our little green fingered children to have a go at planting and taking care of the things they plant and this will inspire lots of new activities in our planning during the spring and summer months. Preschool are also getting a new computer.

NEW STARTERS

We would like to welcome Sara, Luca and Amber into baby room and to Emma, Joseph and Charlie who will be due to start in baby room shortly,

CHILDREN LEAVING

We would also like to say a big good bye to Charlie from pre-school and Carys from baby room. Good luck to you both as you start your new nurseries.

MOVING ROOMS

Jack, Matilda and Zak will be moving to the 2-3's room in May so they are currently going for room visits. So good luck to you children on your new adventure.



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Registration Nos. EY222717 & EY314827

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BIRTHDAYS

Amber, Luca and Joseph will be celebrating their 1st birthday

Zak, Matilda, Jack and Samuel will be celebrating their 2nd birthday

Mia, Michael P, Mathew P, Daniel J, Harry and Amelia will be celebrating their 3rd birthdays

Libby and Grace will be celebrating their 4th birthdays

Also we have a couple of staff birthdays coming up and I am sure they won't mind me revealing their ages!

Linzi will be celebrating her 19th birthday and Steph will be celebrating her 20th birthday.

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

Finally when looking through our nursery world magazine Sarah has come across an article that highlights a website which provides information for parents wishing to calculate exactly what benefits or grants they are entitled to when it comes to contributing to the cost of childcare.

The website address is- www.payingforchildcare.org.uk

It is worth a look as I know I will.

THANK YOU

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