

Newsletter - October 2011

An introduction to our new monthly Newsletter covering Filton Avenue Nursery School & Children's Centre, Clifton/Cotham Children's Centre, Henleaze Children's Centre and Stoke Bishop Children's Centre.

A Message from the Head Jackie McGregor

A very warm welcome to all our families. This is the first Newsletter of the year which will be produced monthly to keep you up to date with everything that will be happening. I would like to introduce myself, Jackie McGregor as your new Headteacher of Filton Avenue Nursery School and Children's Centres. It is with such warmth and pleasure that I look forward to working with you all and getting to know all the children and families.

If you are coming to the Filton Avenue Centre you may well see me at the beginning of sessions welcoming you all at the door.



Please do stop and introduce yourselves as I attempt to get to know everyone. I am always happy to discuss things with you. I hope you all have an amazing experience here and use and enjoy all the services and opportunities we have to offer.



Acorns

In Acorns we have a team of ten fantastic practitioners. We welcome our new team leader Leandra and our three new practitioners, Lauren, Hannah and Clair.

All the children have been busy settling in, making new friends and exploring the toys in Acorns room. On Wednesday mornings every week children enjoy singing, listening to sounds and dancing with musician Vicky Meadows which they love. This and supports their language development and foundations for listening.

You are welcome into Acorns anytime and we look forward to getting to know you and your child this year.



Beech

Beech children are now all in and gradually settling into their new environment and getting to know new friends and adults.

The children love being outside at the moment and particularly love our new 'beach area' sand pit.

Many of the children are already talking about 'circle time', where they will have met Sammy Seal. You may also hear them singing songs at home that they have learnt.

We are gradually introducing 'group time'

which follows the greeting time at the beginning of the session. You are always welcome to join us for this time and learn more about what your child does at Nursery.

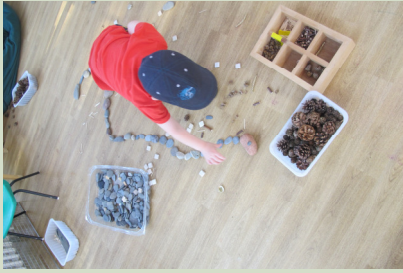
Please do look at your child's Learning Diary and the displays in the room, give us your feedback and tell us about what your child likes doing at Nursery.

If you need to inform us about changes to drop off or pick up times please write them in our room diary.

We are all happy to help you or answer any questions that you may have. Thank you for your support during this settling period.

Filton Avenue Nursery School & Children's Centre

Willow



Johnny is the lead class teacher in Willow room. The children are settling well thanks to your support. Please remember we have an 'open door' policy and you are welcome to stay during any session for as long as you like, particularly if you or your child is finding separation difficult. As with Beech we are gradually introducing the nursery routine and Different areas so that your child feels

confident and has ownership of the whole centre. We have just started to open up the Studio. This is a space where anything could happen – projects ranging from music and dance to sculpture and roleplay. If your child has a particular interest please let us know and we can use this space to make their ideas flourish. If you as parents have any talents or ideas you would like to share with us please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Learning and Teaching

Hello, my name is Cate and I am the Assistant Head-teacher with a responsibility for learning and teaching. I love my job and working with young children. I am fascinated by their minds and how they learn so much so quickly.



If you would like to know more about how we support your child's learning, then I am here most days, usually at the door at the start of sessions to say 'hello'. Also, we are having some new IT equipment installed which will have photos of what your child is doing during their sessions. Please come and see and also tell us what your child is interested in and what makes them 'tick'. You know your child better than anyone and your perspective helps us to provide experiences that will interest your child, help them learn and make sense of the world around them.

Family Support

Have you thought about Family Support? Are you aware of our wide range of groups and services we offer? Here's some news about some of them:

We can help you to quit smoking. **Phyllida Wyatt** is a trained NHS Stop Smoking Advisor and is available for free consultations.

After a 10-week induction, 10 parents have now started our in-house **C&YPW Level 2 Certificate course**.

This programme runs for 1 year and leads to a full Level 2 accreditation in early years care and education.

Our Wednesday Stay & Play is too popular! If you are intending to join a Stay & Play, please try our Monday morning group.

Understanding Children – A course designed for all parents who wish to understand their children better. We are now taking names for a 6 week course which starts on 2nd November. Please contact **Joy Bray**.



Joy Bray (left) and Phyllida Wyatt (right) lead Family Support

No Parking – Private Car Park

Please help us to keep your children safe by **not** bringing cars up our drive or into our staff private car park. The only exception to this is for parents/carers who **hold a permit issued by our school office** because they are either:

- Parents/carers who deliver and collect their children who are registered disabled or
- Registered disabled parents/carers who deliver/collect their children.

Please see the office staff if you need information concerning this. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Vacancy—School Meals Supervisory Assistant (SMSA)

We are looking for a temporary SMSA to start as soon as possible to cover for Farhia who is currently on maternity leave. The position is likely to need covering until 19th July 2012. If you are interested in this position, please write a letter to Jackie McGregor, headteacher, giving details of your experience of looking after children and why you would like to work at Filton Avenue Nursery School and Children's Centre. Thank you



Did You Know – We also manage Downs and Surrounds Children's Centre Services in the following areas:

The communities of Clifton, Cotham, Redland, Bishopston, Henleaze and Stoke Bishop for more information, please contact Joy or Phyllida on Bristol 0117 377 2681