

# Streatham Wells Nursery Newsletter

## September 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

Hello and welcome to the start of a new school year, to both those returning to the nursery and those newly joining us. My name is Joe and I am your new teacher. I will be working alongside Bunmi, our nursery nurse, Tara, Zahida and Jamie our teaching assistants. I would like to tell you a little bit about what your child will be doing at the nursery over the next half term and what parts of the curriculum we will be covering. For the first few weeks we will be aiming to settle the children in so they are comfortable our nursery. After a settling in period the topic will be 'Ourselves'.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: The main focus for our new children will be making sure that they settle into nursery life and become used to the nursery routine. We understand that this can be a very stressful time for children and we aim to make separation from home as positive an experience as possible. The nursery environment makes sure all children are given the opportunity to try out new experiences and take self-chosen challenges on a daily basis. We will be promoting independence by encouraging children to have a go at doing things themselves. We will also sit down with the children as a group and agree a list of class rules together so that they have a say in how their classroom is run. We will be establishing and reinforcing the rules and boundaries the children are expected to follow.

Communication, Language and Literacy: We will be enjoying lots of different books together, both one to one with children and in larger groups. For all children there will be a focus on the importance of listening when other people are speaking. This will be established in a variety of ways, including our daily group time when the children will be read a story by one of us. Group time also gives the children a chance to talk about the book they are being read and to learn about story characters and settings. We will also be doing lots of singing with the children of both traditional songs and new ones they may not know, encouraging them to join in.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy: We will be encouraging children to have an interest in numbers and counting by singing different number songs with them. The children will be able to play games and complete puzzles involving numbers. We will take every opportunity to bring numbers into our conversations with the children by asking them questions such as "How many buttons are there on your coat?" and "How many children are there at the beach?".

Knowledge and Understanding of the World: For new children there will be a heavy focus on allowing them to familiarize themselves with their new surroundings and learning where everything is kept in the nursery. All children will be encouraged to have a go on the computer and can of course have adult support if needed. The children will be able to use a range of construction toys, as well as building their own constructions at the creative area using the boxes, bottles etc that we have (junk modelling). We will be talking lots about "ourselves" and comparing how we have changed since we were babies.

Physical Development: A main focus for all our children will be safely moving around the nursery and negotiating pathways when moving both indoors and outdoors. To help with this we will be creating real and role play opportunities for children to make their own pathways, for example by getting the children to cycle round cones outside.

Once a week on a **Tuesday** (for the morning class) and **Friday** (for the afternoon class) all children will have a P.E. session where they will be introduced to a variety of games which involve negotiating space and starting and stopping. Please can you ensure that on this day your child wears shoes that are easy to get on and off. Ones with Velcro fastenings would be ideal. In the

winter can we please also ask that on P.E. days your child wears socks instead of tights for the same reason.

**Creative Development:** We will be doing lots of singing so that your child is able to build up a repertoire of songs. There will be lots of creative activities on offer for children to take part in. Painting is available for the children to do every day. We have a 'tactile table' in the nursery where children can take part in messy play activities such as writing in shaving foam and feeling cooked spaghetti! We will be developing the children's confidence in dancing and circle games during P.E. The children also, once a week, have their 'Colour Strings' sessions which involves an outside teacher coming in to lead a singing and movement lesson.

**Your child's clothes :** Please do not send your child to nursery in any clothes that you do not want them to get dirty! We encourage lots of creative and messy play in the nursery and although we ask children to wear aprons for some activities, such as painting, we do not for all of these. I encourage all parents to send their child to school appropriately dressed so they are able to take part in all our activities. I would also advise having a spare set of clothes in your child's school bag just in case of any unforeseen accidents!

**Birthdays:** If you would like to bring in a cake in for your child's birthday then that is absolutely fine but please can I ask that you bring that in only and not party bags also.

**Junk modelling:** We will be doing lots of junk modelling in the nursery so all donations of small empty boxes, lids, containers etc. are highly appreciated!

**Book changing:** The children's reading books are changed daily. Please make sure you bring their book in their book bag every day.

**Volunteers:** We are very happy to have parent and carer volunteers helping out in the nursery, as many of you already know. Please come and see me if you would like to come and spend some time with us.

**Nursery Voluntary Fund:** Thank you to all the parents and carers who regularly contribute to the nursery fund. This money goes towards buying valuable resources for the nursery. I hope to do cooking with the children every week in the nursery and your money will help to fund this. For those of you who aren't sure, the money box for the fund is on the wall by the front door. All contributions greatly appreciated!

**Home time:** Please note the doors for home time open at 11:30 and 15:30. **Please** inform us in advance if someone we do not know is picking your child up from nursery.

Please do not hesitate to speak to Bunmi, Tara, Zahida, Jamie or myself if you have any problems or queries. I look forward to meeting you all!