

# Silks Farm Nursery School

*Setting the standards by which other nurseries follow!*

## NURSERY MATTERS

4th Edition, Autumn 2005

### Introduction

This edition of *Nursery Matters* is packed full of topics which include our fund raising activities, introduction of yoga at Silks Farm and a new section called 'Chef's Recipes', as well as all the usual features.

Well done to the many parents who took our advice in the previous newsletter and are now paying part of their nursery fees with childcare vouchers, thus saving a considerable amount of money.

### Events and Activities

#### Silks Farm Nursery School forges relationship with St Ivo School

Featured in their 05/06 prospectus, Silks Farm Nursery School has teamed up with the Adult and Community Learning Centre at St Ivo School to provide childcare for students on courses. A further testimony that Silks Farm Nursery School leads the way in childcare and education in the St Ives and surrounding areas.



Should wish to know what adult courses are available at St Ivo during 05/06, you can pick up a prospectus from us. Please ask Selina for your copy.

#### Fundraising success

Many thanks to all our parents, carers and friends who supported our participation in both the Foresters Big Toddle for Barnardo's and Race for Life. Without your generous donations and support we could not have raised so much money.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June, 22 people representing Silks Farm Nursery School entered the Race for Life at Ferry Meadows Park in Peterborough. Taking anywhere between 30 minutes to one hour, everyone completed the 3 mile course. The girls who took part were brilliant, showing their commitment to the UK's biggest women only fund raising event dedicated to helping victims overcome

#### In this issue.

- Nursery forges relationship with St Ivo School
- 10th Anniversary for Silks Farm
- Over £3,000 raised for charities
- Yoga comes to Silks Farm
- New section - Chef's Recipes

## Events and Activities

Breast Cancer. Both national and local press covered Silks Farm Nursery School's participation in the event. Thanks to you all again for helping us raise over £2,000.

Held in July, it was the third consecutive year that Silks Farm Nursery School had participated in The Foresters Big Toddle for Barnardo's, a great cause focused on helping less privileged children. In total we beat our target of £1,000 raising £1,110 - well done again! Perhaps some of you saw the Silks Farm Team in the 28<sup>th</sup> July's edition of Nursery World, sister publication to the Times Educational Supplement?



In particular, a special thanks goes to the following, raising the most in their respective rooms, together with Laura-Jayne Norman who raised the most amongst our staff.

Baby Room	William Benjafied	£80
Toddler Room	Brooke Lowrie	£70
Little Nursery	Tegan Turner	£92
Big Nursery	November Thompson	£59
Early Years	Lucy Nugent	£42
Staff	Laura-Jayne Norman	£79

Each of the children listed above received a prize which included items such as a doll, chalk and crayon set. Laura-Jayne was given a large box of Celebrations chocolates, yum yum!

### Room news

During the spring and summer seasons the children in Big Nursery had planted seeds, but our resident wild rabbits have big appetites. We are now one hop ahead, as the new batch of seeds are in tubs.

As the introduction of PE in the Early Years Room has proved to be a great success, we have decided to make this a regular event. So we would appreciate if parents/carers in the Blue Room could pro-

vide a change of clothes to act as a PE kit. Thank you.

To coincide with Big Nursey's Transport Topic, the nursery arranged with some parents for a Police Car (courtesy of Frank Holmes) and a Mini Digger (courtesy of Daniel Jerred) to visit our site. You should have seen the beaming smiles on the children's faces, they had such a wonderful time. A special thanks goes to Daniel and Frank for making this possible.

### A brief history lesson

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary that Silks Farm Nursery School has been providing care and education to young children.

Silks Farm was originally a Pig Farm owned by Mr Silk. Over the years the land changed hands when it was finally owned by a couple that kept horses on it. Chris Hunt, the former owner of the nursery, acquired this land and in September '95 opened Silks Farm Day Nursery. As the size of the premises increased, so did the registration and around Easter 2001, on completion of the Baby and Toddler Room extensions, registration was increased from 76 to its present day capacity of 94. In April '03, Silks Farm Day Nursery was acquired by Selina and Nigel Swaby and shortly renamed Silks Farm Nursery School. Today with its extensive grounds, facilities and extra activities including French, Silks Farm Nursery School is unquestionably the leading nursery in the area, and with the capacity and capability to look after 36 children under two, probably boasts the largest and most comprehensive baby unit in the county.

### Sainsbury's and Tesco vouchers

What a result! With your help we have collected almost 1,500 Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. With these we were able to acquire 6 tactile balls, 6 large footballs, ball net for storage, 12 hoops and a parachute, that the children love.

For the Tesco Computers for School vouchers we

## Events and Activities (continued)

decided to 'bank' them this time around, waiting to collect more Tesco vouchers when they are next available. So far, with your help, we have collected a total of 1864 vouchers.

### Yoga comes to Silks Farm

On the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 12 lucky girls from the Silks Farm Nursery School team embarked on a yoga programme aimed at teaching our staff, safe and appropriate yoga movements for young children. This programme has been specifically devised to take into consideration the age range of our children, and is being taught by the renowned Beverley Nolan.

Beverley is a yoga teacher with more than twenty years experience. Accredited with the British Wheel of Yoga (the governing body for yoga in the UK) and registered with the International Somatic Movement Education and Therapy Association, she offers pro-

grammes in yoga, peri-natal yoga, children's yoga, Authentic Movement and holistic anatomy and physiology. She also runs a private practice offering individually designed yoga and bodywork sessions. Beverley has particular experience in the developmental movement journey that takes us all from being a self-contained 'babe in arms' to a self-directed, fast moving toddler in around 12 months.

*Another first! Silks Farm introduces yoga to the nursery.*

From early next year with the on-going support of Beverley, our staff will begin to introduce yoga to the children at the nursery, using dance, role-play and sto-

rytelling.

### Website

The facility to be able to take a 'virtual tour' of the nursery, including 360° view of each of the rooms, will be added to our website shortly. Please note that these pictures will be taken at the weekend when no children are at nursery.

## Chef's Recipe

Many of you have stopped by the kitchen to ask Pam, the nursery's chef, the ingredients for many of the mouth-watering dishes we serve the children. So by popular demand, a recipe will be included in each future edition of *Nursery Matters*.

This edition's recipe is 'Cowboy Casserole'.

- 1 packet of uncooked cocktail sausages
- 1 medium onion
- 1 chicken stock cube
- 1 generous tablespoon of mixed herbs
- 1 teaspoon of garlic puree
- 1 tablespoon of tomato puree
- 1 tin of baked beans in tomato sauce

Bake or grill the sausages then drain keeping a little of the fat.

Peel and chop the onion and fry in the reserved sausage fat until translucent. Dissolve the stock cube in  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of boiling water and add to the onions.

Continue to simmer adding the herbs, garlic and tomato puree, cooking for a further 3 or 4 minutes. Now add the tin of beans and stir until heated through.



Place the sausages into an oven-proof dish and cover with the bean mixture. Place in the middle of the oven and heat through

(circa 180/190° for 30 minutes). Serve and enjoy!

### Chef's tip

The children like this one with herby potatoes, but it goes just as well with mash.

## Staff Matters

### Starters

Since our last newsletter, three new starters have joined the nursery. Natalie Fox came on board towards the end of July. A very bright young lady who decided that her previous role as Office Manager was, in the long term, not for her. She joins the team in the Baby Room.

Formerly an NNEB nursery nurse at Jean Jones Private Day Nursery in Wisbech, Karen Whybrow joins the Early Years team.

You may recall from our previous newsletter that Silks Farm Nursery School were working in conjunction with Huntingdon Regional College by offering Kimberley Jones a work experience place and assisting with her Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education. We are delighted to announce that Kimberly has now gained her qualification, and has subsequently accepted a full time Nursery Nurse position, working in Vickie Mayes' room.

### Leavers

None. However, Anita Abey is currently on maternity leave.

### Recent promotions

We hope you will join us by congratulating Debbie Spenceley to the post of Deputy Manager. Debbie has worked at Silks Farm Nursery School for almost 7 years. She has gained a considerable amount of experience during this period. A loyal, committed and reliable member of staff, she deserves this new

role. In addition to being Deputy Manager, she still heads up the Baby Room.

### Training

To assist Debbie Spenceley with her new role as Deputy Manager, she attended a Skillpath management course, entitled 'Excelling as a first time manager'.

Stephanie Ball, Katie Wade and Jennifer Edwards all commence their NVQ3 in Childcare and Education course this month. Best wishes to you all.

### Treats for staff

As mentioned in previous newsletters, Silks Farm Nursery School values their staff very highly. It is our aim to retain and attract only the very best nursery nurses in the region. We achieve this by offering a first rate remuneration pack, with one of the perks being regular staff treats. In July, we took our staff to Lakeside Lodge Bowl for a fun evening out. They were all treated to a meal of their choice including drinks and two games of bowling. At the end of the evening five members of staff were presented with a cash prize of £25. The members of staff and categories were as follows:

Janet Kimber	Throwing Style (her ability to throw the ball backwards!)
Karen Whybrow	Lowest Score
Kimberley Jones	Most Strikes
Jo Brett	Pretty Hopeless
Jo Hutchcraft	Absolute Rubbish

## Final Notes

### 'Begging corner'

In this newsletter, we have specific requests for items from both Baby & Toddler Rooms. These are:

- > Wooden objects for the Treasure Box.
- > Empty water/ soft drink bottles (small) for play activities.
- > Toddler Room is looking for age relevant books.

If you intend to bring in any of these items above, please see either Debbie or Tanya.

Finally, a big thank you to all those parents/carers who have previously donated clothes, toys and play equipment. Your support is very much appreciated.

### Requests & reminders

## Final Notes (continued)

A polite reminder. Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name. With a significant number of children that attend nursery, unmarked items could easily get lost. For your information, there is a leaflet in our reception offering a name labelling service for iron-on or self-adhesive labels.

A polite request for Baby & Toddler Rooms. The children in these rooms can often get very messy during tactile activities, or when they are trying to feed themselves, so we would appreciate if you would be kind enough to bring in a spare set of clothes for your child. Thank you.

We are beginning to notice again that a number of parents/carers are still wearing shoes throughout the nursery. For the sake of your children's health

and cleanliness of the building, please remove your shoes in the reception area.

For all new parents - just in case you didn't know the Flavia® drinks vending machine in the reception area is primarily for your use. So why not take the advantage of taking a gourmet Cappuccino, freshly brewed tea or hot chocolate when you pick up or drop off your child at nursery? You'll thank us as the wintry weather draws nearer.

In our last newsletter we covered ways in which parent/carers could potentially reduce their childcare costs. So if you are still wondering about these savings, and perhaps are unsure of how childcare vouchers work, then come into the office for a chat.



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