



## **Spectrum January News**

Dear Parents,

Firstly, George and I would like to wish you a very happy New Year. Our year started in the best possible way with our granddaughter arriving on the 4<sup>th</sup>. We managed a flying visit to Ireland to meet her and plan a week's visit once our son-in-law goes back to work.

The end of the year was very busy with the Busy Bees nativity show and the visits from Santa at the room parties. It was wonderful to see so many of you at these events. With most of our parents working or at college, we appreciate the efforts you make to join us. We have often talked about having "play times" so you can experience first-hand what actually happens in your child's room. The difficulty is that you would have to then take your child home rather than go back to work. In order to gauge how practical this would be, we will be organising an electronic questionnaire.

As you are aware, we constantly review our policies and procedures to ensure we continue to provide the excellent care and education you expect. We have recently been looking at our communication processes. We have decided that, apart from the Busy Bees, the room newsletters will only relate to our long term plan. At present, the information is readily available via daily diaries and discussions, learning journeys and the information boards in each room. It took a considerable amount of staff time which we feel will be better used. I will endeavour to produce a newsletter more frequently.

Your child's learning journey is updated on a monthly basis. We would like to encourage you to look at it between Parents' Evenings and would value any comments you have.

I would like to ask for volunteers for our Parents' Forum which lost most of the members as their children went to school. We meet once a term normally on a Wednesday lunchtime at the Spectrum nursery. It is a useful way of gathering information and using parents' skills and experiences to benefit the nurseries. The next meeting will be Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Please let me know if you would like to come and join us – even if just to see what happens.

Where possible would parents who bring buggies please fold them up. This follows a request from the fire officer.

Our staff news starts with Kirsty producing Adam who is progressing well. Heather has taken charge of the Wibbly Wobbly room, with Cheryl going on her maternity leave. We have employed Stacey a qualified Childcare Practitioner, who is also based there. We have had a couple of moves for the staff between rooms and Lisa has returned to Stepping Stones so we will have 2 Lisa's there.. I am interviewing for another modern apprentice to help out in the Jelly Tots as Charlotte also went on her maternity leave. Liam, who works in the Busy Bees, has gained his qualification – we are delighted for him. 2 other apprentices are due to qualify next month so I will be reading out lots of familiar names at Carousel's graduation ceremony this year.

We had a visit from Glasgow City Council to monitor our development of the Curriculum for Excellence. Their representative was impressed with all our planning and evidence. As we now have partnership status we will be inspected at some point by HMIE – a rather daunting prospect.

The rooms are all learning about Chinese New Year, which is the year of the dragon. So be prepared for lots of red and gold. We then move on to Burn's (tartan) and Valentine's (pink) days. This is all mentioned on the information walls. Please bring in anything of interest connected with our themes. Even if your child is young we can share it with the older children. We would also like to remind you to bring in pictures for our home links walls. The Care Inspectorate are always looking for links with home – please help!

Easter Monday is the 4<sup>th</sup> April; the nursery will be closed that day.

Because of the Queen's Jubilee, the last May holiday is changed to the following week. So the holidays are 7<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June. Skypark will open for those children who normally attend that day whose parents have to work. However, you must give a month's notice so we can arrange staffing – it is classed as holidays for our staff. The other 2 holidays this applies to are Fair Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July and September weekend the 24<sup>th</sup>. These dates are all on the web site.

We will be arranging our next Parent's Evening so it does not clash with any Easter holidays.

As ever, I am available at any time if you wish to discuss anything with me

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