



Best Friends Childcare Centre Limited

Newsletter - spring 2014

Contents: -

1. **WELCOME**
2. **INTRODUCING YOUR TEAM**
3. **OPERATIONAL ISSUES**
 - STAFFING
 - ACTIVITIES JANUARY- APRIL 2013
 - PHOTOS
 - HERTS QUALITY STANDARDS (H.Q.S)
 - PARENTS COURSES
 - CHILDREN LEAVING
 - NEW ARRIVALS
 - BIRTHDAYS
5. **TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS**
 - COURSES ATTENDED
6. **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**
 - January – March 2014

To all our Parents and Children

Hello & Welcome from Gemma Jones & All the Team at Best Friends

We would all like to extend a warm welcome to all the new children and parents who have joined the nursery since our last edition.

1. Introduction. This Newsletter will be the main form of communication from all of us at Best Friends, so please read through it, we welcome feed back from you as we do like to work in partnership with our parents.

2. Introducing your team -

Gemma Jones - Proprietor & Managing Director

Hilda McGrath - Nursery Manager

Gemma Brown - Assistant Nursery Manager

Emma Blanchard - Head of Room - Over 2's

Darren Pegg - Nursery Chef

Annie Mason - Nursery Practitioner - Under 2's

3. Operational Issues -

Staffing

Stacey - Stacey has moved over to the other nursery as Assistant Manager. I hope you will join us and wish her well and every success with her new promotion.

Annie Mason - Annie Joined us in October 2013, Annie is level 3 qualified and will be working in the baby room, Gemma Brown will be supporting Annie in her new role.

New hand overs -

Activities and Outings September - December 2013

September

9th National Grandparents day - Sadly no one came to join us in this celebration

18th Jewish festival sukkot- children built a den with construction poles and ate snack.

30th - Harvest festival - Harvest festival - trip to Cyril dumpleton, children brought in tins, fresh fruit and vegetables.

October

7th - willows farm trip

11th - Spanish day - children ate paella and painted the flag children also dressed up and watched a flamenco video and copied the dance themselves.

14-18 - recycling week - children looked at different materials and walked to the co-op to use recycling bins

31st Halloween - the children had a Halloween party we played lots of different party games, Halloween pinjata, dancing and pass the parcel.

November

4th Diwali - Hindu festival of light -the children did chalk drawings of patterns on the floor and put out candles.

5th bonfire night - the children celebrated bonfire night by making fireworks pictures with paint and watched sparklers in the garden.

10th Remembrance Sunday - Parents, children and staff attended the poppy day parade and put down a poppy wreath on the memorial.

11-15th - Children in Need - children baked cakes, and dressed up to help make money for children in need.

29th Christmas Lights switch on - parents, children and staff took the children down to the clock tower in the village to see the lights get switched on.

December

2nd - 6th - Hanukah - lighting a menorah and had a traditional Hanukah tea.

18th - Christmas dinner - We had our Christmas dinner and crackers

20th - pantomime - we had our Christmas party this year over at the village club where we had a pantomime, Christmas party and tea. Where Santa came after this to see us all.

Trip to the library - The older bay children enjoyed an outing to the local Library. The children collected some books and will return them when they expire. The Nursery has now become a member of the library for the children to have and gain understanding and responsibility of the books.

Photos time

It's been a year nearly now since the last lot of wonderful pictures were taken by Christine of Tempest Photography. We will be having the Company at Best Friends on **Monday 16th June 2:30pm**, for group photos, if you would like your child to have a group photo with their friends please bring them in for these to be taken. Then on **Monday 23rd June at 2:30 pm**, we will be doing the childrens individual pictures. If you would like your child to have this then please fill free to come in and have them taken. All welcome and **PLEASE** put this into your diary. You can bring a change of clothes into the nursery and the staff can get your child changed for their pictures after lunch if your child is on nursery on this day. If it is not your usual day then please feel free to come along for your children to have their pictures and group pictures taken.

H.Q.S

The nursery has started procedures for gaining Herts Quality Standards award. This award is a kite mark for quality provision within childcare. The nursery will have to undertake assignments which will involve feedback from the children and parents of the setting. The staff may send out the information or ask for 5 minutes on collection. I hope you want mind helping and supporting the nursery in gaining this procedure. They will be coming into the setting on the 6th February 2014.

Parent's courses

I have been having a few parents ask about a few courses which we may be able to help them with. I would like to see how many parents are interested in doing the courses before I book them.

- 1) Baby Signing - We are looking at doing this around July time. Could you please let me know if you are interested so I can collect numbers and how many people will be attending?
- 2) Behaviour course - we are looking at supporting and doing another run of this, this year.
- 3) Funding information and how it works.

Fundraising

We would like to thank you all for your support during the fundraising course throughout autumn 2013 so far we have raised for:

Stacey is running the London Marathon this year and is running it on behalf of Newlife. There is a sponsor form on the foyer window if you would kindly like to help her achieve her goal of raising £2500.00 for children with disabilities. Every little helps and makes a huge difference to the children's lives.

Gemma Jones and Emma Blanchard will also be helping Stacey raise funds by doing a weight loss over 10 weeks. If you would like to sponsor us for each pound we lose all the money raised will be going towards "Newlife". We will weigh ourselves on the 3rd February and again on the 11th April. The amount of weigh each member of staff has lost will be displayed for us to collect the sponsors.

We did a fundraising at the Christmas pantomime in aid of the Neonatal unit at Lister Hospital. On the day and the evening performance we are pleased to announce we raised £228.37.

All the children's present which were donated and brought for the Lister Hospital "Magic of play appeal" was taken down to the hospital and was gratefully received. Thank you to all for helping us supports a wonderful course over a festive period.

New arrivals

We would like to take this opportunity in congratulating the following on their new arrivals:

If you do not already know Amy Green will be going on Maternity leave as of January 31st. Amy will be due for her new arrival around 19th February, we will let you know once she has had the baby and all is well. We are all excited to see what she is having. We would like to wish Amy and James all the happiness on the safe arrival.

Stanley - George

Birthdays

We do celebrate every child's birthday even if they are not present on their actual special day. We can make birthday cakes if required and we will focus on a healthy option wherever possible. **(Please give us suitable notice!)** We have candles in the nursery for these occasions and will make your child feel very special on their day. We are sorry but **no shop-bought cakes may be brought in for these occasions as they may contain ingredients that cause allergic reactions.**

Children who will be celebrating their birthdays since the last issue:

Staff - yes, we even celebrate staff birthdays too

Gemma Brown 29th January

Emma Blanchard 14th March

5. Training & Qualifications

We see this area as vitally important for our staff and it will have much benefit for you and your children.

Both Management and staff are about to go on or have been on a variety of courses since our last issue:

Gemma Jones - SENCO - Cluster meeting - September 2013, February 2014,

Gemma Jones - Protective Behaviour - February 2014

Hilda McGrath - SENCO - Cluster meeting - September 2013, February 2014,

Gemma Brown - SENCO - Cluster meeting - September 2013, February 2014,

Darren Pegg - First Aid at work - November 2013

Hilda McGrath - First Aid at Work - November 2013

Emma Blanchard - Key person - November 2013

Gemma Brown - Safe guarding - December 2013

Darren Pegg - Safe Guarding - December 2013

Emma Blanchard - Safe Guarding - December 2013

Annie Mason - Safe guarding - January 2014.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for the outstanding hard work and achievements in gaining more knowledge by attending these courses out of hours, which have further aided their skills in the care and development of our children.

6. Dates for your diary

January 2014

February 2014

March 2014