

Sorry it's late!!!

Newsletter: 2nd Half Autumn Term 2007

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the second half of our Autumn Term, the run up to Christmas! I can hardly believe how fast time is going.

This Term our topic is Light and Colour, and we will mostly be focusing on Festivals and Celebrations around the world for our weekly themes.

We started last week with Halloween, exploring Pumpkins, making pumpkin collages and spiders. This week our focus will be Bonfire Night, when we will be making a variety of Firework pictures, using a range of artistic mediums. We will watch and make our own sparklers, dance like Fireworks and even make Rocket snacks!

We will think about Remembrance Day and move on to learn about Diwali, making diva lamps, Rangoli patterns, dressing up in Saris, cooking and tasting Indian food. Hopefully we will have a visitor who can teach us more about this festival, and we may even visit the local Indian restaurant!

Another festival we will focus on is Hanukkah and of course Advent and Christmas. We will have a theme on Winter, Trees, Birds and also the Night Sky. We have lots of exciting activities planned around these, and hope to encompass some visits e.g. to Stonham Barns, to learn about looking after birds during winter, a Garden Centre, to look at Winter Plants and pick our own Rainbow Christmas Tree and maybe more surprises!

Dates for your Diary

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| NOVEMBER 26th | Last Ballet Session this term.
Come and watch! 1.10pm-1.40pm |
| NOVEMBER 26th | PAINT POT will be at Rainbow from 2pm until about 5pm. Come along with siblings and friends to paint your own ceramic gift for Christmas. Fired locally and delivered in time for Christmas. Help raise funds for Rainbow at the same time. |
| DECEMBER 3rd | Parents Evening 4pm-6pm. Children welcome. Come along to share your child's progress with us. Book our slot on the form on Parents Notice Board. |
| DECEMBER 17 th | *Christmas Play: 'Christmas Eve in the Toyshop'
Further details to follow. * |

Please let us know if your child is unable to attend on this day (am)

DECEMBER 18th 10am-12.00pm Christmas Party
All children welcome, regardless of usual session.
TBA Whole School Christmas Outing to Easton Farm Park's
'Winter Wonderland' including a visit to Santa. Look
out for the date.

Christmas Tea Towels

This is underway again. A Tea towel will be sent home to you on approval, featuring a hand drawn self portrait of each child in the Nursery. £1 from each tea towel goes towards the Nursery. You are able to order more copies, or order other items with your child's drawing on. Very popular last year. Look out for yours!

Photo Albums

We are trying to make up individual Photo Albums for each child, to aid settling and language development. We would be grateful if you could send in photos of anyone/anything special to your child. This could be family members including Grandparents, Aunts/Uncles, Cousins, siblings, my house, my garden, my friends, my pets, my favourite toys, my car etc. Please be prepared that the photos may need trimming to size!

Collection of Children

As part of our commitment to child safety and protection, we want to create a fail safe mechanism for staff, parents and children when it comes to collection time. A tried and tested method of ensuring that children are released to the authorised parent or carer is the password system. Basically, you think of a password, write it down and hand it to me to be locked in the safe. In the event that you need a friend/partner/relative unknown to us to collect your children, they can be given the password to give to the staff on arrival. Please let us know if you are getting someone other than yourself to collect your child so that all staff can familiarise themselves with the password. In some instances a new or temporary member of staff may not know *you* and that may require the password to be used. We would also suggest that the password is changed at random intervals to maintain security. Please fill in the attached form, write down a password and send in, in a named envelope as soon as possible. Thank you.

Parental Responsibility

The laws surrounding the legal rights of parents, has recently changed and, we felt it best to keep you up to speed on this. Instead of trying to fit it into the news letter, we felt it best to put the information into a separate letter that explains what the position is and tells you what we may need to know.

Welcome Packs

As part of our continued drive to enhance the service and quality of Rainbow, we have put together a Parent Welcome Pack that is designed to give parents all they need to know in one go and provides them with all the necessary forms. We have put one on display in the entrance hall for everybody to see, but if you would like your own copy just ask. Please feel free to make any suggestions for improvement. Although these are going to be of more use to new parents, some of you may want to have one to remind yourselves of the wonderful things we do at Rainbow and to familiarise your selves with some changes that we have made to the terms and conditions and booking process..

Terms and Conditions

We have been looking for some time at trying to tidy and clarify the terms and conditions of acceptance as we have always felt that they are not particularly clear, especially when it comes to giving notice to leave or decrease sessions. As a result we have made some changes to the rules which we think makes things a lot clearer for everyone and will hopefully prevent any misunderstandings that could occur under the old terms. As these are new rules, we are going to issue a copy to all parents to sign and return as soon as possible so that our records are complete and up to date. The new Welcome Pack is worth looking at as it gives an in depth explanation of the rules surrounding bookings, invoicing and notice. We hope that you will all agree to the new terms but please have a chat with us if you have any questions concerns or worries.

A New Face

As part of our commitment to supporting the Local Community, we have agreed to welcome Julie Hills to Rainbow for Adult Work Experience for 6 weeks. This is part of a Government initiative with the Job centre. We hope she learns some valuable skills here with us, working amongst our dedicated staff and super children. She has a CRB check underway, and will obviously never be left alone with your children! (As is the case for any unqualified/ non-CRB checked person!)

Advertising

We would appreciate your help with advertising Rainbow. Many people are still unaware that we exist, and we feel it is important for Parents to see the full range of Childcare options available to them, in order to make the best choice for them and their child (Obviously Rainbow!!) If you could display one of our Posters in your car and/or know of another good place you could put one for us, we would be most grateful. If you receive any free publications to your home, that we might be able to advertise in (e.g. parish newsletters/magazines), please let us know, and show us the publication.

If anyone knows of a business, that might be able to offer visits to/from us, or could provide free/discounted resources for us, in return for some joint advertising, then we would love to hear from them.

Any other ideas welcome!!

Spread the Word/Introduce a Friend

If you can introduce a friend/acquaintance to Rainbow, that results in a booking being made, you will win a £20 book/CD token for yourself. Tell them they can come along and try a free session, and hopefully they will see for themselves how lovely we are!

Appropriate Clothing

Please remember that we try to access 'The Outdoor Playroom' as much as possible and during all weathers, as it provides such rich learning experiences. I hope to be organising an Open Evening/Day with a focus on Outdoor Learning, and it is going to be a real focus/area of development for us over the next 2 terms.

With this in mind, and colder/wetter weather returning, please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing with them. They will need a warm/waterproof coat with a hood, hat, scarf, gloves, Wellington Boots and a change of clothing (or 2!) Please do not send them in any 'precious' clothes, as it *is* hard to stay clean in this weather!

As usual my *newspaper* is beginning, so I shall end it now!

Many thanks once again, for your continued support, friendship and SUPER children.

Best wishes,

Sheena