



Rainbow Nursery

Autumn News Letter 2007

Dear Parents,

WELCOME BACK! I hope you have all had a wonderful holiday, despite some of the awful weather. Let's hope this warmer weather stays for a while longer!

I'd like to start by saying a big THANK YOU to all those who attended our Summer Holiday Sessions, and to Lisa, Stacey and Emma who did such a fantastic job of running it. It was a great success, and lots of fun was had by all. Stacey has made a lovely display of photographs in the 'Messy Room' if you would like to have a look. As it was my first Holiday Club, it is obviously a learning experience, and I welcome your feedback. Hopefully it is something we can build on, and offer again, possibly including other holiday times e.g. Easter.

My thanks also go to Emma Rodwell, Katie and Matthew's Mummy, for her help in getting me started on the 'Garden Project'. Hopefully you will notice that we have moved a few things around to make better use of space, rearranged the tyres (dug in and secured them) to make tunnels/benches. We have also made a start on our Wildlife Area. There is a lot more we would like to do. I will let you know more about that in another letter!

On a sad note, I have to announce that Sam will be leaving us. Sam was a member of staff at Rainbow before I came, and I would like to thank her for her hard work, support and encouragement throughout my first year as new manager. Unfortunately, due to family commitments and circumstances (including a new puppy!), she has had to make this decision. We will all miss her, and wish her every success for the future.

Julie who has been assisting us with swimming, through lifts, and also in the pool, has also had to leave, due to a 'proper' job! We congratulate her, and wish her every success. I would also like to thank her for all her help with Swimming right from the start. We couldn't have done it without her, and we will miss her very much. Fortunately, Emma Rodwell has agreed to take over, and with my 'new' bigger car, we should be fine!

Stacey and I will be working full time, and Sally and Emma will each be working 3 days, so at the moment there is no need to employ another person.

We would like to welcome some new children, and their families to Rainbow; Joseph Perry, Oliver Carr, Isobel Macauley, Rufus Maile, Tristan Kendall, Jamie Coates, Alice King, Fynn Smith and Harry Roberts. We wish them all a long and happy stay at Rainbow Nursery.

As we now have quite a few new children and families, we have decided to put together a 'New Parent Pack'. Hopefully you will all receive one soon.

To start with, a few polite reminders for everyone:

- ◆ Please provide your child with a safe change of footwear for indoor use (i.e. covered toes, soft sole e.g. plimsoll, slippers, doodles).
- ◆ Please provide a change of clothing, in case of 'accidents'.
- ◆ Dress your child ready for an active and possibly 'messy' day (i.e. not best/expensive clothes).
- ◆ We try to use the Outdoors as much as possible, so Waterproof Clothing (coat, trousers, wellies etc.) are helpful to provide.
- ◆ Children are welcome to bring 'comforters' if necessary. If they wish to bring another 'toy' or item, we ask that it is not too special, or with many parts. Please would you also make a member of staff aware of the item brought in so that we can do our best to ensure it returns home safely.

Our topic this term is 'Houses and Homes'. We will start by thinking about our 'Rainbow Home', looking at how we can help each other to be happy working and playing together. Old Rainbow Bear and New Rainbow Bear will be helping us to do this. Little Bear may even be visiting you for a 'Sleepover', where your child is invited to take care of him, helping him to learn the right way of doing things, and to keep healthy! A camera and notebook will be provided for your child to record some of their experiences.

The Rainbow theme will involve lots of art, craft and creative activities along with some science.

From this we will move on to look at the children's own homes, and other homes/buildings around us. First hand observations will help us with this, and will involve a variety of Maths and Construction activities.

The children will be learning about Harvest and Thanksgiving. We hope to have a Farmer/Tractor visit, collect our own produce and give to either Foxearth or the Local Church. Maybe the vicar will visit us to tell us about where it will go. We will examine wheat/corn/grain, make bread and vegetable animals.

We will also learn about the Muslim Festival of Eid, celebration of the end of Ramadan, with a visitor, and also about the Chinese moon Festival. This will involve a variety of creative activities including cooking, craft and music.

Snails have a very special and decorative home that they carry around with them, and we will be focusing on them one week, searching our outdoor environment for them, examining them closely, drawing them, racing them.....!! Does anyone have any African Snails?

We will end the topic by looking at houses and Homes in Storybooks e.g. The Three Little Pigs, The Gingerbread House, The Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe.....

That hopefully gives you a little idea of what we will be focusing our play and learning on. All of our topics/ themes allow for opportunities in all the learning areas. I will tell you more about them as we go along.

If you think you know of anything/anyone that might help with any of our themes, please let me know.

Ballet continues on a Monday afternoon, Swimming on a Tuesday afternoon, and we will now be cooking on a Thursday morning. If you're interested in any of these sessions, please see me.

I also hope to plan some little 'trips'.

I think that will do for starters!

Please remember to come and see me with any worries, concerns (or nice things!!). Parents are just as welcome as their children at Rainbow.

With my best wishes,

Sheena