



HEATH LANE NURSERY SCHOOL  
AND CHILDREN'S CLUB  
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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 4  
22nd November 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

It is fair to say that Christmas is nearly upon us and so there are plenty of things to plan for! There has of course been some sickness to contend with and now there are weather warnings of freezing temperatures and potential for snow! Please see the section about SNOW PROCEDURES on the last page of this letter to make sure you are prepared.

On Tuesday there was a very enjoyable social and fund raising evening held by the PTA. Through the sale of raffle tickets, the bar, an on the night coin raffle, and a percentage from orders placed with the Pampered Chef Company we are hoping to raise enough money for the egg hatching experience again at Easter. Our very own Pampered Chef Justine Florido (Curtis' mum at afternoon nursery) showed us some very tasty recipes and how the cooking utensils work. She is still able to take orders from anybody who had to miss the event and I have spare catalogues in the office or you can go online to [www.pamperedchef.biz/flosfood](http://www.pamperedchef.biz/flosfood) and place an order. Please do so if you can this week and 15% of your order will be donated to the PTA funds.

It is not too late to buy raffle tickets either and just today I have had a visit from the Co-operative Funeralcare who have donated a raffle prize of a magnificent hamper. The nursery and club really appreciate the support from local business in the community. Mrs Pearce (afternoon parent) has made some fabulous aprons for 3-5 year olds with different motifs on the front. Please ask in the office if you would like to purchase one. All proceeds to the PTA fund.

Please take some time to read the different sections overleaf in this newsletter. We are confident that all letters do go home in book bags and this newsletter will also go on the website on Friday should you misplace a newsletter. If there are any sections you are not sure about please ask in the office or ring.

Don't forget - NO NURSERY SESSIONS ON MONDAY! (Occasional Day)  
With best wishes for a fantastic run up to Christmas.

Mrs R Heath

## TISSUES

Could you donate a box to nursery or club to keep us supplied as we train children to blow their noses independently? Please hand a box to your child's key worker. Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS DATES!

**29<sup>th</sup> November - NURSERY CLOSED** but children's club is open. Please contact Mrs Haynes on 01442 234687 to confirm places or if you want an ad hoc place.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Celebrations at St John's Church. **There will be NO normal nursery sessions.** Instead we hope you will be able to bring your children for an hour down to the church where they will tell you the story of HUMPH the CAMEL! 10am-11am for morning nursery and 1:30pm-2:30pm for afternoon nursery. **If your child has a full time place, or a flexible or additional hours pattern please speak to the office to confirm arrangements immediately.**

The morning session know their parts and the afternoon children will know by Friday. We apologise for the delay caused by staff sickness.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Xmas Party sessions.** Children come in fancy dress and enjoy some games and an Entertainer. Please can you buy and wrap a small present (£5) for Father Christmas to give your child at the Christmas party. We will collect them (secretly) in the office as soon as you have one. They will need your child's name and their animal group on a label stuck firmly on the present.

**PARKING** 53% of families come by car. 17% mix car and walking. 30% walk.

This is an ongoing and complicated issue! For your child's safety

**PLEASE PARK CONSIDERATELY!**

**It is clear that many parents are not heeding the warnings and we are now costing the barrier idea for the staff car park to enable CDC and nursery staff to park and get to and from their jobs on time.**

We are collecting number plates for those families who do not park appropriately to put in newsletters. So far it is South Hill School car owners who have been spoken to and should not be parking on site at all!

Our Accessibility Plan requires us to make clear the edge of the pavement from the brick pavings in the turning circle. You may have noticed **the white lines** which are currently being painted. They are also helpful in the gloom for car drivers so that they can park carefully avoiding the pavement. It is very difficult for families with pushchairs when cars park on the pavement. Please do not park on the pavement at all.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO DO PARK CAREFULLY AND ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO PARK AT A DISTANCE AND WALK THE LAST PART OF THEIR JOURNEY.**

### Applying for School Places

The deadline for applying for a primary school place for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007 is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011. You can apply online at [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions). If you would like help with this or any questions please ask Mrs Heath, or Mrs Harris in the children's centre.

### SNOW PROCEDURES

- With the very cold weather please make sure your children come to nursery and club with extra layers and hat, mittens (easier to put on) and scarf. It is really helpful when all clothes have a child's name on the label too!
- In the event of snow it may be necessary to close the school if staff are unable to travel in safely. If the decision is made to close the school and club due to snow or severe weather conditions please check the home page on [www.hertsdirect.org.uk](http://www.hertsdirect.org.uk) (which is designed to cope with heavy demand) or the nursery school website for information

[www.heathlane.herts.sch.uk](http://www.heathlane.herts.sch.uk)

We will also be using the local radio stations 'Snowline' to inform parents  
**Heart FM Radio 97.6FM 828AM**

**BBC Three Counties Radio 103.8FM/ 95.5FM or 630MW/ 1161MW**

If you do not have access to the internet please let Mrs Heath know.

Alternative arrangements can be made. If the internet crashes (as it did on one day last year) please be patient. Children are not marked as absent or late on snow days because of the travel difficulties.

- Please note that we try to keep the nursery and club open but safety for children and staff is paramount. Snow also falls differently each time causing different types of chaos on the roads which makes it tricky to plan ahead.
- If you find yourself at home with your children unexpectedly then the nursery website has some snow related activities for you to try out. Last year we had a great response from parents who used the activities and filled in Post Its and took photographs for their child's learning journey. It makes settling back into routines much better as well as a great way to share learning and teaching opportunities.

### Other Information:

Useful Website: [www.easy2name.com](http://www.easy2name.com) may be just the website you are looking for to supply you with a variety of ways of naming your child's clothing.

For our 12 children leaving at the end of this term Mrs Fowler is arranging consultations for you on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Letter to follow.

We are hoping to walk the children down to the church for a brief introduction to the building before the Humph story so please look out for the date when I have confirmed this with the church. Helpers will be needed to walk with us.

All parents and carers - Mrs Fowler will be sending letters out informing you of the coffee sessions for you to attend and then come and see the nursery in action. They will be on Wednesday 1st December and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Don't forget to book onto some of the exciting things the children's centre are running in the holiday. Please ask at the Children's Centre if you need a newsletter.

There are vacancies at the Children's Club for breakfast club and after school club for regular attendance or ad hoc arrangements if you need some extra time in a day. Please speak to Mrs Haynes. She also has spaces in both the morning and afternoon early years sessions if you would like to extend their hours at Heath Lane. Mrs Haynes can be contacted on 01442 234687.

Next term we hope some of the parents and carers would like to offer to help in the nursery. Please see Mrs Heath if you are interested.