



Sherrardswood School

16th September 2011

Dear Nursery Parents

Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn Term at Sherrardswood Nursery and we are looking forward to a fun time.

The team at Sherrardswood Nursery consists of two full time and two part time members of staff. All our Nursery Practitioners are dedicated to providing a secure and stimulating environment where your children are happy to explore, experience and learn. I would like to take this opportunity to give you a little background information.

Mrs Catrin Dove has been working full time at Sherrardswood Nursery for nearly fourteen years. Before this she lived abroad and worked in a range of Early Years settings in the Middle East. This year she will be working with the Hedgehogs in the mornings and across both settings in the afternoons. Mrs Dove also manages and runs the Nursery morning and afternoon club. Please liaise with her should you require this service.

Mrs Lyn Jones has been part of the Nursery Team for nearly fourteen years and works full-time. In the mornings she works with the Hedgehogs and in the afternoons across both settings. Prior to joining Sherrardswood she was a Nursery Practitioner in two other local Nurseries.

Mrs Lisa Hammond, who will be taking on the role of acting Nursery Manager from September, has worked across the settings in the Nursery and has been part of the Nursery Team for six years. Before joining Sherrardswood Nursery she worked as a child minder and a nanny and will be working with Mrs Rolfe in the Badgers.

Mrs Jan Rolfe joined us last year and will continue to work in the mornings alongside Mrs Hammond in the Badgers setting. Previously she worked in another local Nursery.

Mrs Carole Dathan is the Assistant Head responsible for the Nursery. She meets regularly with the Nursery team and is contactable by telephone through the Lockleys office.

Each child will be allocated a member of the team as their key worker. These groupings are displayed on the wall in the nursery. As a Parent you will have daily contact with the Nursery team and any concerns or queries should initially be addressed to them. These issues will be shared at our weekly Nursery meetings. If, however, your concerns continue please feel free to contact Mrs Dathan, by leaving a message with the Lockleys office. Please bear in mind that on a day to day basis Mrs Dathan is involved with her Reception Class and Assistant Headteacher duties but will be happy to meet with you either before or after school should you wish to raise anything with her.

Mrs Dove and Mrs Jones have planned a stimulating Autumn term for the Hedgehogs. During the first half of the term they will be looking at 'Colours' and 'Dinosaurs' through a number of activities including sorting and matching, collage, painting, colour-mixing and gathering objects for the 'Investigation station'. After half term the topics will be 'Mechanical' and 'Christmas', investigating how things work and move. The Christmas activities will include learning new songs, exploring



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with different shapes and textures, and having lots of fun getting ready for Christmas. The weekly theme will be posted on the Nursery door for your information.

For the Badgers the main focus this half term is settling into a more structured session. Mrs Hammond and Mrs Rolfe have planned two topics over the first half term. The first of these is 'All about me'. During this topic the children will be given the opportunity to share information about themselves and learn more about the Nursery routine. Over the subsequent weeks the children will be looking at 'Autumn and Harvest time'. They will be using our beautiful grounds to learn about the changing seasons, collecting a range of interesting natural objects. After half term they will be finding out about Festivals and Celebrations which leads up to the celebration of Advent and Christmas through a range of games, activities and crafts.

As Badger Parents you can work with your child in providing objects of interest for the activity table, role play areas, creative play and 'show and tell' activities. This information can be found in the 'Home link' area.

Hedgehogs

In the Hedgehogs your child can choose a story book each day to take home to share with you.

Badgers

In the Badgers, first thing each morning, we would like to give you an opportunity to help your child choose a book from our book corner to take home. This can be done as frequently as you wish.

If at any time you wish to talk in detail about your child's progress please speak to your child's group leader to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Also attached is a list of dates for this term. More information will be sent out as each event approaches.

We value the views and opinions of our parents and believe that an 'open door policy' enables parents to talk to staff whenever necessary, and for staff to keep parents fully informed of what their child is doing in Nursery.

New Learning Experience

I am delighted that we will be bringing the experience of a Forest School to our Early Years children over the course of this term, with 6 Forest School sessions. These sessions will be run by Luca Parrella, from the Celtic Harmony Camp in Hertford, who is a qualified provider of Forest Schools.

But what is Forest Schools?

'A Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning.'

Forest Schools provides positive outdoor experiences for children of all ages. The sessions offer opportunities for the children to exchange their classroom environment for an outside, woodland experience. An environment where they can learn and develop new skills, learn about the natural



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environment, how to handle risks and, most importantly, to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others.

Both the Badgers and Reception children will be taking part in these activities which will start on Friday 23rd September and run every Friday, for 6 weeks ending on Friday 4th November 2011. The children will be split, with the Badgers session running during the Friday morning session and the Ladybirds (Reception children) during the Friday afternoon.

Each week the children will swap their usual classroom or setting for a dedicated area of woodland in our beautiful Sherrardswood grounds. This area has been appropriately cleared and checked by Mr Parrella and our site staff to ensure all safety precautions are in place each week.

This is a really exciting time for Sherrardswood Early Years and a fantastic opportunity for our children to broaden their experiences and develop new skills.

We ask that all children have appropriate footwear (wellies or trainers) and warm waterproof coat in school every Friday. They will be required to wear their usual school or nursery uniform for these sessions.

If you have any questions please speak to the Nursery staff or contact Mrs Dathan through the school office.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Carole Dathan
Assistant Head Teacher
908__Nursery welcome



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Nursery dates for Autumn Term 2011

More details about individual events will follow at the appropriate time.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 27th September
Wednesday 28th September

Nursery Afternoon Tea
Sherrardswood Birthday Assembly
Nursery children may attend with their parents

OCTOBER

Thursday 6th October

Friday 7th October

Monday 11th October
Saturday 15th October

Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church Welwyn,
Parents welcome to bring their children
Jeans for Genes Charity Day
All children wear jeans to school
Individual and sibling photos
Open Morning for prospective parents
Registration 9.00am
Tours 10.00am – 12.30pm
Art week
Half term

Monday 18th October
Monday 24th -
Friday 30th October

NOVEMBER

Friday 4th November

Monday 7th November

Tuesday 29th November

EARLY CLOSURE – 12.00 pm.
NO AFTERNOON SESSION
NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE
Scholastic Book Fair (until 11th November)
Held in Lockleys entrance hall
Nursery Christmas play dress rehearsal

DECEMBER

Wednesday 30th November
Thursday 8th December
Friday 9th December

Christmas Play – Parents welcome
Christmas party
EARLY CLOSURE – 12.00pm
NO AFTERNOON SESSION
NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE

JANUARY

Thursday 5th January

Spring term begins