



### Autumn Transition Sessions to the Bliss Charity School

We will be offering transition sessions in September - October for the pre-school children starting Bliss school this autumn. As you might already know, during the first term of the reception class your child will be attending reduced sessions at the Bliss school, they either do mornings or afternoons only. The school will advise you nearer the time which sessions your child will be attending. The children attending afternoon session at Bliss can use the Pre-school during the mornings (Monday to Friday).

For those attending morning sessions at Bliss, the Pre-school will be open during the afternoons on a Monday, Thursday and Friday. We will also operate a pick up and drop off scheme between the Pre-school and the School. This gets your child used to doing a full schooling day, gives your child some familiarity and helps you out with childcare. We introduced these sessions last year and received many positive comments from the parents who found this service invaluable. Further details regarding the session's length and the costs involved will follow shortly so watch this space...



### NETHER HEYFORD PRE-SCHOOL

Charity number: 1029571  
 www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk  
 info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk

### TRANSITION TO THE BLISS SCHOOL FOR RISING 5s.

By now you should know which school your child will be attending in September. The head teacher of your allocated school will be contacting you in due course with details concerning the arrangements for admission. You will be also receiving your Bliss School Uniform order form from the School.

#### All children will require:

- Royal Blue Sweatshirts
- Royal Blue or White Polo Shirts or Blouse
- Black or Grey Trousers or Skirts
- Black Shoes
- Grey or White Socks or Tights
- Shorts and T-shirts for PE
- Pumps in the Spring Term for PE

Uniform does not have to be purchased from the school. You can buy plain items from M&S, Matalan, Tesco, etc if you would prefer.

### NEWS FROM FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

#### OPEN DAY - TUESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

If you have a child who you wish to send to pre-school then come along to our Open Day on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June. Bring your child and have a look around, meet the staff and committee members.

#### PRE-SCHOOL SPORTS DAY - THURSDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Our annual sports day will be held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> July this year. It will take place on the Green from 09.15am - 11.30am. All pre-school children will be taking part and everyone is welcome - parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. For those children that do not normally attend the setting on a Thursday, they must remain your responsibility at all times. Please dress your child in appropriate comfortable clothing and trainers. If the weather is hot don't forget hats and sun cream. There will be the opportunity to buy cakes, biscuits and drinks. Please come along and support us, it'll be great fun.

#### OTHER EVENTS AROUND NETHER HEYFORD:

- 29 May 2011 - Duck Race
- 11 June 2011 - Village Hall Fete
- 23 July 2011 - Playing Fields Association Fun Day

Parents' Newsletter:  
 Issue 5 - May 2011

### Dates for Your Diary

**30 MAY - 4 JUNE**  
 Pre-school will be closed, half term break

**THURSDAY, 16 JUNE**  
 09:00-11:30 Tempest photography

**TUESDAY, 28 JUNE**

Pre-school Open Day  
**THURSDAY, 7 JULY**

Pre-school Annual Sports Day

#### Tempest Photography

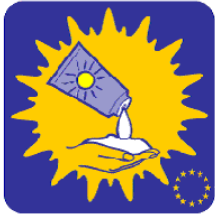
Tempest Photography will be visiting the setting on 16 June 2011 to take pictures of pre-school children and their siblings from 9am onwards. Tempest takes super pictures which provide a lasting memory of your child's time at pre-school.

#### Welcome to Lisa Morgan

We have a new member of staff, Lisa Morgan, who joined us a few weeks ago. She will work Monday and Tuesday mornings until the end of the July term. Lisa has a strong background in childcare having worked in nurseries and primary schools and also as a childcare trainer. We are pleased to welcome her to the team.

#### Thank You, Goodbye and Good Luck to Lucy Brown

Sadly Lucy Brown, who has worked with us originally as a volunteer and more recently as a member of staff on Thursdays and Fridays, will be leaving us on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Lucy will be missed both by the children and the staff as she has formed good relationships and is well liked and respected. Lucy is going to spend some time in Australia before starting university in September. We wish her the very best of luck.



### Hats and Suncream

With warmer weather upon us, can you please make sure that you put a high protection sun cream on your child before they come to pre-school in the morning and bring a sun hat for them to wear too. Many of our activities are set outside and once the register is taken the children have free play moving independently between the hall and the outdoor area. If your child attends the afternoon sessions please pack sun cream in their bag so that it could be reapplied after lunch.



### Pre-school Committee Meetings

As you know our pre-school is a non-profit organisation which is run by the Committee of volunteers most of whom have children in the setting. We have regular Committee meetings where various pre-school issues are discussed. If you have any concerns, questions or ideas which you would like to be raised at our next Committee meeting please get in touch with us via e-mail or speak to a member of staff or a committee member. **The dates of the next Committee meetings are 13 June 2011 and 13 July.**

## THE OUTCOMES OF THE PRE-SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

At the beginning of the year we sent out parent questionnaire to find out how we could improve the setting for you and your children. Thank you very much to all who took time to complete these forms. The committee has been going through the feedback received. We hope that we have now made some improvements in the areas that caused concern. We would like to thank Sophie and all the Pre-school staff for working with us to implement these changes. Below are a few of the comments which we have addressed recently.

### YOU SAID

- More trips/outings for all children, not just Rising 5s.
- Special events for non-rising 5's when rising 5s are doing things, for example Forest School.

### WE ARE DOING

Trips out in the village: for example, understanding local area shops, the butchers, the church, attending the allotments, Forest School for rising 5's and Nature Trail (mini forest school) for the younger pre-schoolers.

### YOU SAID

- More organisation in the mornings when children arrive.
- More toys and activities.

### WE DID

The daily routine was changed by staff and each member has a role to play in the morning which hopefully gives you (as a parent/carer) a point of contact. With limited space in the hallway we try to get the children in the setting as early as we can. There is always a member of staff in the hallway in the morning for safeguarding. Free play now runs from 9.15 to 11.45. This enabled the children to play for longer and to have more access to the outside area. As a result of the change the staff has longer adult-focussed time with their key children. The children are more settled and persist for longer at activities of their choosing.

Money raised by the committee was spent on more toys especially for under 3s and these have gone down really well with the children. We have purchased puzzles, sorters, stackers, chunky pens and pencils. We have bought a whiteboard and a blackboard for the older children. We have made a heuristic basket with various metal objects for all to explore. We have also acquired some multicultural items which we are sure every child will enjoy playing with. We have recently purchased Talking Tubes Telephone Exchange and a number of Big Books for all to enjoy.

### YOU SAID

- More notice regarding the fundraising events.
- More notice regarding special days, plays needs to be given as it is hard for working parents to arrange leave/time off work.

### WE DID

Regular events list is now on our web site. Events are also updated in our monthly Newsletter to Parents. We also publish them in the Prattler, The Heyford Village Newspaper.

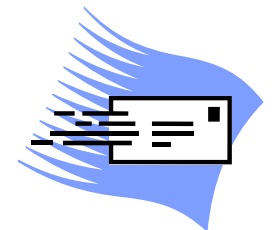


A big thank you to everyone who collected Tesco's and Sainsbury's vouchers for the Pre-school. The Tesco's vouchers have now finished (Sainsbury's ones will be still running till the end of May) but if you have any left lying around at home or stuffed in coat pockets, dig them out and bring them to pre-school as soon as possible as we will be counting them all up shortly ready to order new equipment.



### Lunchboxes

Can you please ensure that your child has an ice pack in their lunchbox. This helps keep the food fresh for lunchtime.



### Newsletters by e-mail

If you (or another family member) would like to receive our pre-school newsletter electronically please send us an e-mail to [info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk) and we will add you to our mailing list. You can still pick up a printed copy in the pre-school foyer too.