



Cygnets News

Happy New Year everyone! We hope you have had a good break and are looking forward an exciting new year ahead for Cygnets.

In this addition of the newsletter you will find plenty of useful dates, fund raising information and confirmation that the rumour is true. YES, Boogie Pete is returning to Milton for another boogie. Please read on.....

A note from Jackie

I am pleased to say that all the children have "trotted" back into pre-school quite happily after the Christmas holidays. It's funny though..... When you ask them what Santa brought them for Christmas, most of them say, "I can't remember"!

Well, you've heard my news that I'll be leaving the pre-school at Easter. It was a tough decision to make but I feel it's time for me to move and and further my career in childcare.

This term we are busy preparing ourselves for a visit from OFSTED as it has been three years since our last inspection in February. In addition to this we are waiting to hear if we have been successful in our application for a grant to enable us to place an all weather surface on our outside play area. This will enhance our provision for the free-flow child led play both indoors and outdoors. We will keep you informed of the details of these exciting events.

Just a couple of requests:

- We would love to hear what our children get up to at home, so please try to write some details in your "Special Moments" books so we can share these with you.
- In the mornings when you arrive if we have started the register could you please try to come in quietly as this does disrupt the group.

You are of course welcome to talk to myself Sarah or your child's key worker but kindly remember that registration time is important for the staff and children in preparation for their entrance into school. It would be great to see any of you during a session if you have time to come in and help us even for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour.

Finally, if any of you have any special interests or talents we would love you to share them with us e.g. if anyone can play a musical instrument you could come in and join in the fun at song time!

Update from the committee

Easter Fayre

Cygnets will be holding its annual Easter Fayre on **Saturday 28th March, 2pm - 4pm**. This is a fun afternoon for all the family (and a great fundraiser for Cygnets!). There'll be lots of games to play, crafts to do and refreshments to enjoy, so do put the date in your diary.

To help make it a success again this year the staff and committee would like to ask for your help and support, you can do this in many different ways - by offering some of your time on the day and/or donating some goodies for the children's and adults tombola and the lucky dip. So if you have any unused pressie's, plan to sort through the cupboards or have any unwanted toys from places like McDonalds, Cygnets will certainly be able to put them to good use!! Thank you in advance and we hope to see you there.

Comic Relief

As I am sure many of you will know Comic Relief is having another 'Red Nose Day' on **Friday 13th March**. In previous years Cygnets have joined in with the fun and we would like to do so again. We will be having a sponsored event. Look out for more news nearer the time!

T-shirt sale

The New & nearly new 'Cygnets' T-Shirt and Sweatshirt sale will take place on **Tuesday 3rd February** from 11.45am - 12.45pm. If you have any tops that your children have outgrown and are happy to donate these for the sale then please take them into pre-school before the sale. Thank you.

Lighthouse Toys Shopping Evening

Thank you to the mum's and aunties who came along to the shopping evening we had before Christmas.



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Everyone certainly seemed to enjoy the evening and several of those who went along rounded off the evening with a drink in the pub - shopping and fun with friends, what could be better?!! Through your shopping, Cygnets will be 'awarded' with some lovely new toys generously given by the toy shop. These will be awarded to us later this month.

Dumbletons Photography

If you haven't already made the most of this offer, but would still like to have a family photo session and one print, then do fill your form in soon. We need all forms back before the end of this half term. If you have misplaced your form, please speak to Jackie and we will get another one to you.

Boogie Beebies!

Pete from CBeebies, 'Boogie Beebies' is coming back!! After a very successful and enjoyable day last year Pete has agreed to come back! He will be hosting 2 children's dance sessions on **Saturday 28th February, 10.30am and 1pm**. Tickets cost £10 each, under ones and accompanying adults free. Please e-mail your friends and spread the word. The more the merrier!

Payment of pre-school fees

When paying by cheque please ensure that payment is made payable to "**The Cygnets Milton Pre School**". The Building Society will no longer accept cheques that are not completed as above. There has been a recent change to the policy for our payment procedure. This was introduced to avoid debts accruing and to ensure that payment is made promptly. The policy in full will be issued with the next set of bills.

Please note:

When collecting your child from a morning session please leave the building promptly. The changeover period can be very busy so if you wish to chat, please do this outside the playgroup.

Your views

The staff and committee are always interested to hear your views about our pre-school. We appreciate your comments whether positive or negative - it's

good to know when you are happy about things and we cannot endeavour to make appropriate changes if you do not let us know any points you think we could improve upon.

Fund Raising

We thought that you would like to know how the money has been spent following the recent fund raising activities.

- A wooden garage
- Multi cultural dollies
- Placemats
- Finger puppets to enhance story time
- A Play-mobile hospital set

These have all been purchased from money raised via Dumbletons, Yellow Moon & Fun-mats.

We also raised £88.00 when the children dressed up in aid of a leukaemia charity. This fundraiser was in memory of Mark Autherson, Maddies' Daddy and the money was donated to Leukemia Research.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Tuesday 3 Feb** - T shirt sale
- **Saturday 28 Feb** - Boogie Pete
- **Friday 13 March** - Comic Relief
- **Saturday 28 March** - Easter Fayre
- **16 Feb to 20 Feb** is half term.
- **Monday 23 Feb** - Back to Cygnets
- **Monday 1 June***

*There is no training day this half term therefore the training day will be on Monday 1 June and the pre-school will be closed all day to accommodate a training day.

Thank you from your committee,

Michelle Peters (Chair)	Helen Walker
Nicola Plumb (Vice-Chair)	Lucy Blatch
Katie Speak	Jane Purnell
Rodalyn Clark	Fay O'Neill