



Cygnets News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the third edition of this school years newsletter. We hope that you find the content useful and informative.

It's an emotional start to this edition. There are changes going on at Cygnets so keep your tissues handy and read on.....

Out with the old (who said that!!) and in with the new!!!!

Dear all,

Well here I am writing my final newsletter article and I am pleased to say that I have great pleasure in bringing you up to date, with details from our recent OFSTED report.

The overall outcome of the inspection was "Good" in all 14 inspection judgements. You are all most welcome to come in and read the report at any time however I will give you a few of the details they mentioned.

In the area of "Overall effectiveness of the Playgroup" the commented that "Practitioners recognise and value the uniqueness of each child and they ensure children's individual needs are met through effective communication with parents". In the area of "Leadership and Management" they commented that "The manager provides very strong leadership and all practitioners work well together as a cohesive team. This ensures good quality care and education for the children. The report also mentions that "the high standards and quality of teaching at the setting enables children to make good progress and develop positive attitudes to learning". Emma felt that "the children are relaxed and confident in the nurturing care of the practitioners. They are developing good self esteem because practitioners are attentive and value their contributions".

As you can imagine we are all extremely proud of this report, especially me, it is a lovely way for me to end my time here with such a positive recognition of all our hard work!

On a final note, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my time here at Cygnets. I have been involved since my son Tom was here (he is 19 now and still good friends with the boys he played with at pre-school). Cygnets will always have a special place in my heart!

I would like to wish Sarah Levesley good luck in her new role. She will be brilliant. I will miss Sarah, the staff team and of course all the children.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all the committee members, past and present as without them

there would be no Cygnets. Keep up the good work everyone and lots of love to you all,

Jackie

"Hello" from our new Playgroup Manager.

Hello everyone,

I'm Sarah Levesley and I have been working at Cygnets as the morning supervisor so most of you will know me already.

I am thrilled to be taking over the role of Manager when Jackie leaves but also know that she will be a very hard act to follow. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jackie for all the hard work she has done for Cygnets over the past 11 years and for all the support and encouragement she has given me. I am sure I speak for everyone when I say that she will be greatly missed.

As I begin my new job we are heading into a very busy term with the pre-school children preparing for their move to Primary School and we will be encouraging their independence. The reception teachers from Milton Primary School will be coming to see us and a couple of trips to school will be arranged for the children to get the feel of "big school!",

We have started thinking about the pre-schoolers day trip and information about where and when will follow shortly. A leavers group photograph has been arranged and to round the summer term off, there will be our "fantastically fun sports day" and the "bring and share picnic".

Finally I'd just like to say that I am always available if anyone would like to speak to me and I'll do my best to answer any questions you may have, Just be gentle with me for the first few weeks!

Sarah

Fund Raising

Thank you to all parents who kindly made donations last term. These monies were put towards the Arts and Crafts and Renewable Resources budget. This budget enables the children to enjoy playing with many different materials, for example, sand, play- dough, oats, flour, material, etc.



Cygnets News

Shopping Evening, Lighthouse Toys

Once again thanks to all the mums and aunties who enjoyed some Christmas shopping at Lighthouse Toys back in November. Due to your support we were kindly given some lovely new toys from Lighthouse Toys in Histon - a wooden clock puzzle, a WOW toy ambulance and accessories and a large floor puzzle with CD. I'm sure all the children will enjoy playing with these. I have attached a photo of Sarah Leavsley and one of our little Cygnets collecting our new toys.



*Psst. The lady in the scarf is **THE Sarah** our new Manager !*

New Committee member

Cygnets is run by a committee of volunteers. Being on the committee is a great way of having a say in the running of the pre-school, meeting other parents and making new friends (It's not all business - we do have a laugh as well!!) We are very pleased to say Clare Speed, mother of one of our afternoon Cygnets has volunteered to join the committee. We are delighted to welcome her to the team! If you would like to know more about joining the committee please do speak to Jackie, Sarah Levesley, Sarah Branch or any of the other committee members for more information.

Comic Relief

The children and staff had lots of fun on Friday 13th March. Lillian Leedham came in during the morning and made 'Red Nose' cakes with the children. Thank you Lillian. At story time the children were read a book supplied by Comic Relief, this was specially designed for little ones to learn more about how some children live in Africa and how the money they raised will help other children.

Thanks to everyone who joined in the sponsored Comic Relief event. We raised £181.68 for Comic Relief and £181.68 for Cygnets. Thanks for all your efforts in collecting sponsorship and we hope you had fun finding red items with your child!

Amy Leedham - raised the most money - £55.30. This was very closely followed by Ellis Yaxley who raised £55. Others who raised £50 or over were Adam Drummond, Olina Peters and Heather McCrindle. Olina Peters collected the most red items, 109 in total. This was closely followed by Edmund Smith who managed to squeeze 103 items in his bag. Hannah Perry came third with 83 items. Sophie Witt found the most unusual item - a photo of her dad wearing a red nose in a red 'dad' photoframe! Other interesting items were red lentils, a whole red onion, some 'Red bush' tea, a red tissue box holder from Hong Kong and a red scout flag which used to belong to one of the grandad's. Each of the winners - Amy, Olina and Sophie win a £5 voucher for the 'Early Learning Centre'. Well Done.

Easter Fayre

Saturday 28th March, 2pm - 4pm, Milton Community Centre. Put the date in your diaries and come along and join in the fun and games. There'll be lots to do - raffle, tombola, Lucky Dip, face painting, nail decorating, crafts, icing biscuits, games, stalls and refreshments. Thanks to everyone who has already signed up to help out and/or donated things.

Fun for the Easter Holidays

- Sunday 12th April, 2pm - 3pm, Milton Country Park, Easter Treasure Hunt. Walk round the park finding answers to questions then get your reward. £2 per hunter.
- Sunday 12th - Monday 13th April, Easter Egg Hunt, 2-5pm each day at Burwell Museum. Small charge to take part. Prize for every participant. For more info call the museum on 01638 605544.
- 12th & 13th April 11am - 4pm - Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill, Quy Road, Lode, Cambridge, CB25 9EJ. Telephone: 01223 810080 All the family can have fun and join in the hunt for clues around the garden to solve the puzzle and claim a chocolate prize. There will also be activities including a face painter, story telling and craft activities. No Booking Needed Child £2 per trail
- 12th April 11am - 4pm. Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill, Quy Road, Lode, Cambridge, CB25 9EJ. Telephone: 01223 810080
Create your own raft, decorate an egg then try



Cygnets News

your hand at sailing it down the Lode.
Eggstra special prize for all brave designers.
Also activities including a face painting, story telling and craft activities.

No Booking Needed. Child £2 per egg-raft

- Mad Science Easter Camp!
10:00 - 15:00

Mon 6th - Thurs 9th April
Tues 14th - Fri 17th April

Mad Science camps promise to be an exciting and hands-on exploration for your child into the wonderful world of science!!

Mad Science Mini Camp is suitable for your 3-5yr olds! Topics Include: Lights & Colour, Dinosaurs & Worms, Magnets & Measuring, Air & Space ... A half day option is available. For more information or to book you child's place please contact Mad Science or check out our website! Contact: Atomic Annie
Telephone: 01223 880997 Email:

atomic.annie@btconnect.com Web:
w.madscience.org/east

*The Playgroup training day will be on Monday 1 June and the pre-school will be closed all day. Please note that if you have older children who go to Milton Primary School that the school is open on Monday 1 June only Playgroup is closed.

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
Clare Speed	

Outdoor Play Area Update

Cygnets have now been given the 'green light' for the re-surfacing of the outdoor play area. The added safety was top of our priority list but added to this was the fact it will be much less affected by bad weather. As I am sure you have all seen, during periods of heavy rain/snow this area is just not useable. The new surface will allow our children prolonged access to outdoor play without the need for constant well changing or major clear up operations. Thank you to Jackie for her input into this project – it'll be great that she will have seen this all come to fruition before she leaves after Easter. I am currently liaising with our contractor to get this work under way as soon as possible so watch this space!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 28 March - Easter Fayre
- Friday 3 April Playgroup closed
- Tuesday 21 April Playgroup open
- Monday 4 May Bank holiday
- Monday 25 May to Monday 1 June Playgroup closed for half term
- Tuesday 2 June Playgroup open
- Wednesday 10 June Pre-school leavers photograph
- Friday 17 July Playgroup closed. End of summer term.