



Cygnets News

Welcome

Welcome back to all our children and parents to an exciting new term at Cygnets. The staff and committee would like to offer a particularly warm welcome to all our new children and parents who have just joined us. We have a new committee up and running already and we hope that you find this newsletter fun and informative.

Chairperson's Intro

Michelle - Hello, I would like to introduce myself to you all as the new Chair of the Cygnets committee. I have been involved with the pre-school for almost three years now, and have been on the committee for a couple of years. This has been an enjoyable time, having a little input in the pre-school and getting to know some other parents and our wonderful staff! I have lived in Milton for 7 years and have two children, Bethany who has just started school and Olina who loves her morning sessions at Cygnets. I qualified as a NNEB Nursery Nurse after leaving school and worked in a variety of settings (including nurseries/pre-schools) for 12 years, leaving fulltime work after having Bethany. I am looking forward to this year as Chair of the committee (although it is a little daunting!!!) and welcome your comments and suggestions regarding our pre-school. I am 'delighted' to say Nicola Plumb, Vice Chair, and I am basically 'co-working' the two roles, in order to support each other and do the very best we can for the pre-school. I trust this year will be a great one for our children at Cygnets.

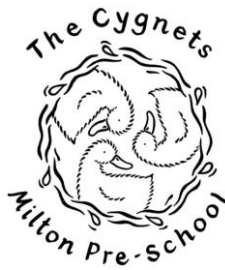
Nicola - Hello everyone, my name is Nicola Plumb and have taken on the role of Vice Chair of the Cygnet's committee. This is my second year of involvement, as last year I was the T-shirt lady, so I've already had

a chance to meet most of you. My son Jake is currently attending 4 mornings a week and my daughter Holly also did so before recently starting at Milton Primary School. They had a great time at Cygnets and really gained confidence and some great friends during their time here. This is really what prompted me to become more involved. Before having the children I worked full time for The MG Owners' Club based at Swavesey as firstly, Deputy Editor of their magazine 'Enjoying MG' and later changing roles to look after the print and marketing side of things. Hopefully some of these skills will stand me in good stead for this position.

Fund Raising

Wednesday 12 Nov

On Wednesday 12th November, 7.30pm - 9pm, we have a great opportunity to enjoy some shopping and at the same time support our pre-school. Lighthouse Toys, 10 High Street, Histon (Tel 01223 236596) will be open for us to browse and buy and in return they will donate 10% percentage of the total spend from the evening to Cygnets in new toys and equipment. I think all those who went last year would agree it was a great evening, the atmosphere was good and we all got a lot of our Christmas shopping done in peace!! And to round off the evening a lot of us went to the pub, where it was nice to chat without being interrupted by our little ones! This year we can also shop on line www.lighthouse toys.co.uk and the pre-school still benefits. Just shop between Sunday 9th November and Saturday 15th November and enter 'Milton Pre-school' in the message box. This not only gives those who live locally the chance to participate but also our family and friends who live further afield. I hope you make the most of this opportunity, our children will certainly appreciate it - last year we were kindly given many wonderful new toys, including the Thomas the Tank Engine Table and trains, which certainly seems a favourite for many. If you would like a lift on the evening, just ask, I'll be happy to help.
Michelle Peters



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Would you like to receive the Newsletter electronically? Leave your e-mail address with Jackie for Fay to collect and they will be sent via e-mail.

We need a volunteer to help with co-ordinating Red Nose Day. You don't have to wear a red nose just help with paperwork and stuff like that. Please label children's clothes clearly especially coats as children often don't recognise their own! **The Parish Council would like to hear your views on playground equipment in the village. One of the play areas is due to have a bit of a refurbishment and this is your chance to have a say. Interested? Tell Jackie if you are.**

SNACKS!

Could everyone who prepares a snack for a child attending Cygnets ensure that the snack is made up of fruit only? Crisps, biscuits and other non-fruit produce must be avoided to prevent harm to allergy sufferers.

Thank you,

A NOTE FROM JACKIE

All the children have settled well into their new routines at pre-school and seem to be happy here. Now I have pleasure in giving you details of our new staff members who have joined us this term. Every morning we have joined by Setareh Rafieepoor and Stacey Griffiths. Stacey is Sue's daughter and she is covering Kerry's maternity leave. Stacey has worked at Rainbows pre-school in Cambridge and is also studying for her A levels at Cambridge Regional College. Setareh lives in the village and has worked for Surestart as a volunteer play worker. Before having her son, who is now 18 months old Satereh used her degree in social science to work as a children's welfare worker.

In the afternoons the team is lead by Sarah Branch who has joined us from a pre-school in Waterbeach.

Sarah has worked at a preschool in Germany as a supervisor for 5 years while her and her family were posted there with the army. Also Marilene Estoppey Von-Negeliein has joined the afternoon team for the Cambridge Steiner School where she was a kindergarten teacher for 2 years. Finally, Shirley Wells completes the afternoon team. Shirley has worked at a pre-school in Waterbeach where she worked for 18 months with babies and young children up to the age of three.

***Kerry has had a baby girl!
"Skye" was born on Monday 6 October.
A future little cygnet!
We wish them well xx***

REMEMBER

Term dates have changed and Cygnets will be **closed** on the following dates:

- Christmas 19 December to 6 January
- 13 February
- Half Term 16 Feb to 20 Feb
- 3 April
- Easter 2 April to 20 April
- May Day 4 May
- Half Term 25 to 29 May
- End of term 17 July

Summer dates subject to change pending extra closure dates.

Finally

If any of you are willing to help with our fund raising activities your support would be very much appreciated. We need help with catalogues/vouchers e.g. Tesco, Nestle Sainsbury's, School link & Yellow Moon,

Thank you from your committee,

Michelle Peters

Nicola Plumb

Helen Walker

Lucy Blatch

Jane Purnell

Fay O'Neill

Jackie Gray

Sarah Levesley

Sarah Branch

Katie Speak

Rodalyn Clark