



# PRE-SCHOOL MATTERS

MARCH 2013

## The Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bunny's picnic



The Pre-school is holding their annual Easter event on Wednesday 3rd April. It takes place between 11am and 1pm at Holy Rood Church, Village Street, Edwalton. We invite you to join us for the Easter egg hunt around the Memorial Garden! The event also includes a homemade Easter bonnet competition, a craft activity, cake stall, chocolate raffle and refreshments.



This year we also invite you to bring a picnic and a blanket and join the Easter Bunny for lunch in the beautiful gardens!!

Tickets are £1 per child on the door and under 1's are free. All are welcome – so tell your friends!

Any profits will be donated to Amani Children's Home in Tanzania (see page 2).

If you can spare any time on the day we would be very grateful for volunteers. Please contact Jo Burr on 07969 838056 or via [theburrs2003@yahoo.com](mailto:theburrs2003@yahoo.com) - your child can 'help' too!

Finally, please bring your delicious contributions to the **cake stall** on the day! Many thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## New Committee members!!

Pam Garget, mum to William, and Claire Wright, mum to Henry have recently joined the Pre-school committee.

As Maria Brown and Cherry Marshall step down from the committee, we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work.

The other parents on the Committee are Charlotte Riley; Jo Burr; Pip Richards; Sophie Bourque and our Chair Caroline Stuckey. A big thank you to these parents for volunteering to help.

The Committee meets once a term and its current agenda is to set up a website and promote the Pre-school's 40th year.

Sophie Bourque, our Treasurer would like to stand down. If anyone is interested in this role, Sophie would be happy to show you the ropes. You don't have to be a finance expert!!

If anyone is interested in joining the general Committee then please contact Jane or one of the Supervisors for more information.

## Warm welcome to New Pre-schoolers!

A belated welcome to all the new parents of children who started at Pre-school in January.

We hope that your children are enjoying it! If you have any questions or wish to see your children's profiles, please ask Sue or Caroline. There is also a suggestion box in the foyer at each setting.

## Sainsbury's vouchers



Sainsbury's have restarted their Active Kids Campaign for 2013. If you do shop at Sainsbury's, we would really appreciate any vouchers you could donate to the Pre-school. There's some great equipment on offer that would really help to enhance your child's pre-school experience.

## New Resources!

The Pre-school has recently purchased new Ipod Touches, and sound systems for both sites and new child-friendly digital cameras.

The children will love getting creative (and having a boogie!) with the new technology.

## CONTACT US:

### Leahurst Road

Sue Feakes (Supervisor)  
Mariam Aslanfard (Deputy)  
St Luke's Church Hall  
West Bridgford  
NOTTINGHAM, NG2 6GL  
Tel: 07748 923455

### Edwalton Extension

Caroline Holmes (Supervisor)  
Mariam Aslanfard (Deputy)  
Edwalton Church Hall  
Vicarage Green  
Edwalton  
NOTTINGHAM, NG12 4AP  
Tel: 07805 317343

### General Enquiries

Jane Sweeney (Administrator)  
Tel: 07941 616369  
email: [Leahurstroad@ntlworld.com](mailto:Leahurstroad@ntlworld.com)

## Term Dates

### SUMMER TERM 2013:

Monday 15 April - Friday 19 July  
27-31 May (closed for Half Term)  
Closed May Day 6 May

### AUTUMN TERM 2013:

Monday 9 Sept - Friday 20 Dec  
21 -25 Oct (closed for Half Term)

### SPRING TERM 2013/14:

Monday 6 Jan - Friday 4 April  
13 Feb - 7 Feb (Half Term)



## Well Done Mariam!

Huge congratulations go to Mariam who recently achieved her Early Years Professional Status (EYPS).

Mariam spent a year studying for the Level 6 qualification with Northampton University, attending university one day a week and completed it in November 2012.

EYPS is a professional status for people working in an early years setting for children aged 0-5, to recognise their expertise as practitioners and leaders. Equivalent in level to Qualified Teacher Status, it forms part of the government's drive to ensure a more professional childcare workforce.

## Supporting a Charity

The Leahurst Road Pre-School Committee has decided that any profits made at the Easter Egg Hunt and the Summer Fair this year will be donated to Amani Children's Home in Tanzania.

For over 10 years, Amani Children's Home has been dedicated to the protection of Tanzania's most vulnerable population: street children. Amani, which means "peace" in Swahili, has rescued hundreds of children from the perils of life on the streets, where they face numerous dangers including malnutrition and abuse.

Amani provides healthy food, education, counselling and medical care for every street child who turns to them for help. When possible, children are reunified with (extended) families.

For more information about Amani go to <http://www.amanikids.org>.

## Safe in the Sun

It may be hard to believe now, but the weather will soon be hotting up! In the summer months please remember to apply sunscreen to children before they come to pre-school.

On most days the children play outside and even when it is cloudy there is still a risk of sun-burn. For added protection please ensure that your child also brings a sun hat.



## Session Times

### St Lukes

Monday (am) 9.30 -12.30  
Tuesday (am) 9.30 - 12.30  
Wednesday (am) 9.30 - 12.30  
Friday (am) 9.30 - 12.30

### Extension

Mon full day 9.15-3.15  
Tues 9.15-12.15  
Wed full day 9.15- 3.15  
Thurs 9.15-12.15  
Fri 9.15-12.15

## Moving to the Extension

If your child is over 3 years old this Summer you may be thinking of moving him/her to the Edwalton Extension for all or some sessions in September.

The difference between our two Pre-School sites is that St Luke's site has up to 26 children per session aged from 2 years + and the Extension caters for 16 children from 3 years old (increasing slightly in Jan and Easter). The Extension also has whole day sessions on the Monday and Wednesdays (9.15-3.15) which enables the children to get used to the longer days before they start school.

Although both sites cover similar topics, the Extension can gear activities towards the ability and requirements of older children and can offer small group activities more targeted to individual needs. This gives children experience of 'school-like' structure, whilst still allowing free play, it also enables them to make relationships with children who may be going to the same school. They become more independent and learn to be part of a team.

Caroline Holmes, Supervisor at the Extension, would like to invite you to visit with your child during the summer term. Please give her a call on 07805 317343 to arrange a mutually convenient time. (Contact Jane if you want a location map or further information).

## Xmas Fayre and 40th Celebration



The Christmas Fayre and Nativity Performance took place on 14th December and was a great success. Many parents and family members turned out to see the children perform in the nursery rhyme Christmas story and to enjoy the fayre.

The Pre-school also celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary by sharing a large cake and honouring Vera Edwards, who has volunteered at the Pre-School for 25 years. The local press came to photograph the cake and join in the celebrations.

The fair raised over £300 which will be used to purchase equipment for the children. The delicious 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake was made by Melissa Dracott of Lillies Cupcakes – [www.lilliescupcakes.co.uk](http://www.lilliescupcakes.co.uk).

## Staff Profile:

FIONA OLIVER - ASSISTANT



Fiona Oliver is the Pre-school's newest Key Worker, joining in October 2012.

Already a qualified Early Years teacher, Fiona heard about the vacancy from Karen Redfern and applied. Initially just working Wednesdays, Fiona now also works on Mondays at the extension.

Fiona was a surveyor for 10 years before qualifying and teaching at Early Years level from 2004. She enjoys interacting with the children and listening to what they have to say – and having fun and getting messy too!

Fiona lives in Ruddington with her husband Jon, children Edward (7) and Henry (5), 1 cat, 2 rabbits and 3 hens! When she's not working with the Pre-school children, Fiona enjoys playing squash, gardening, skiing, socialising and going to fun places with her children.