



PRE-SCHOOL MATTERS

JUNE 2013

Goodbye and Thank you Mrs Feakes



Just like Sir Alex Ferguson, our very own leader, Sue Feakes is retiring this summer after 26 years at Leahurst Road Pre-school.

Sue started her career as a window dresser for Selfridges, leaving when she had her children, Louis and Georgina. Both of her children attended the pre-school, and after becoming a regular on the parent rota, Sue took a childcare course and joined the team in 1987. In 1997 she became Supervisor of the Leahurst Road site.

Sue has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Leahurst Road, and loves seeing ex-pupils around West Bridgford as they grow up – even seeing some ex-pupils come back to the pre-school with their own children. She has proudly watched nervous newcomers change into confident, settled children who are eager to run through the door and enjoy pre-school!

Caroline Stuckey, Chair of the pre-school committee says, "Over the past 26 years Sue Feakes has been at the hearts of many, having nurtured thousands of children who have passed through her care. She has been a great ambassador for the preschool and one which we will never forget. I'd like to wish her well in her retirement, and I'm sure you will all join me in encouraging her to visit the preschool whenever she wishes, in the hope that her great talent and big heart will never be too far from the preschool or from the generations of children that lay ahead."

Summer Fayre



This year's Summer Fayre will be held at 10.30am on Friday 19th July at the Edwalton Extension.

The Fayre will include a concert to celebrate the end of the pre-school year and to say goodbye to children who are moving on to primary school. Any profits made will be split between the pre-school and Amani children's home in Tanzania.

The St Luke's site will be closed on the morning of Friday 19th July. Children normally at the Extension on Fridays should arrive at 9.15 and St Luke's children at

9.30am. All other pre-school children and their families should arrive at 10.15am.

Can you help with raffle prize and tombola donations? Any new, unwanted gifts or other good quality items would be very much appreciated. Please also bring a cake on the day for the cake stall.

This year we are offering parents the chance to sell their wares at the fayre. A stall space can be purchased for £5.00 please contact Jane for further details.

We also need volunteers to help set up/tidy up from 9.15am, run a stall, help serve refreshments and sell raffle tickets on the day. If you can help (grandparents etc are also welcome at the concert!) please contact Jo Burr at theburrs2003@yahoo.com or on 07969 838056. All volunteers get preferential seats for the concert.

A Fond Farewell to Pre-school Leavers!

Many of our children are leaving pre-school to go to primary school in September.

We wish them good luck and hope that they have enjoyed their time at Leahurst Rd, and have grown in confidence and independence.

Staying Safe in the Sun



On most days the children play outside, and even when it's cloudy there's still a risk of sunburn.

Please can all parents and carers ensure that children are wearing suitable summer clothing - tops that cover shoulders, shoes that cover feet and a sunhat. It is recommended that children are wearing a high factor sunscreen before coming into pre-school as unfortunately pre-school staff are not permitted to apply sunscreen to children.

Uniform Orders!

Uniform order forms are available at both sites and uniforms can be ordered from Jane at any time. T-shirts are £3; Polos are £5 and sweatshirts £7. The pre-school still have a few age 5-6 years polo shirts and jumpers still available at the reduced price of £1 and £2 respectively.

CONTACT US:

Leahurst Road

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Edwalton Extension

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General Enquiries

Jane Sweeney (Administrator)
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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 - 17 Feb (Half Term)

New Language Leader



Anne Harrison is the pre-school's new designated Language Leader. Anne will be involved in ensuring that speech, language and communication is considered in all planning, delivery and evaluation of services for the children and families within the pre-school setting.

If anyone would like to talk to Anne, she can be contacted during the sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday morning at St Luke's and Thurs morning at the Extension.

Questionnaire – The Results are in!

The pre-school has had extremely positive responses so far to the majority of questionnaires.

We are especially pleased that a number of questions had a unanimous 'yes' answer, including "Do you feel that your child is safe and well cared for at the Pre-School?" and "Do you feel comfortable about approaching the Pre-School with a question or problem?"

Our favourite comment was "my child asks me to come on Saturday".

We have also received a number of suggestions, including methods of feeding back children's progress, encouraging children to move up to the extension and requests for more lunch clubs. We'll keep you posted on progress. If you would like a questionnaire then ask a Supervisor or Jane.

Pre-school Trips and Visits

The children at the extension have already enjoyed a visit from Edwalton Primary School and Pierrepont Gamston and a talk from a Nurse this term.

They have a talk from a Policeman, a visit from the Fire Brigade and a trip to Edwalton Primary School still to come. If you would like to share information about your profession with the kids we would love to hear from you.



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

Your Committee Needs You!!

Sophie Bourque is leaving the Committee after 2 years as Treasurer of the Committee since her children are no longer at Pre-school. We therefore need a new Treasurer to oversee the finances of the Pre-school. In addition, our Chair, Caroline Stuckey will be taking a break for maternity leave so we would also like a new Chair or temporary Chair while she spends time with her new baby.

The Pre-school committee meets once every half term sometimes during the day and sometimes in the evening. It's a great way to get involved with the running of the Pre-school and your child's future! It also helps you to gain new skills which could help your future career and it can be fun too!

If you would like to find out more about the role of Treasurer or Chair then we would love to hear from you.

Easter Egg Hunt and Fundraising



On a chilly, but sunny day in April the annual pre-school Easter Egg Hunt took place. The children loved the hunt, crafts, cake and Easter Bonnet parade. Overall, the event raised a small profit which will be split between the pre-school and Amani Children's Home.

Thank you to everyone who completed a Rainbow fundraiser They look brilliant and raised £158. which will be used to purchase outdoor science equipment.

Safety in Lunch boxes

Please be aware that wrapping children's food in cling film can be hazardous. Children like to play with this fascinating material. If you do include it in lunch boxes please let your key worker know so that extra supervision can be made during lunch.

Don't Forget...

Recommend: Please ensure that your child has a spare set of clothes they can change into after wet play, and that every item you bring, including bags, lunch box, sun hat etc are clearly labelled with your child's name, thanks.

Staff Profile:

Alison Sharpe-Willson PRE-SCHOOL ASSISTANT



When Alison's youngest child Elliot left Leahurst Road to go to primary school, she put her name down on the relief list to cover staff absences.

Four years on, Alison now works at the St. Luke's site on Monday, Tuesday and Friday as keyworker to the children in the yellow group. She also sometimes covers on Wednesday and at the Extension.

Before becoming a full-time mum, Alison worked for Bankarts Insurance Brokers at Tollerton Hall, as a Commercial Insurance Account Handler.

Alison loves working at the pre-school and particularly enjoys playing with the children and listening to the funny stories that they tell her. Her hopes are that every child goes home after each session having had a lovely 'play'.

One of her priorities is to produce a document for each of her key children that they will cherish, and look at in years to come to get a real sense of what they were like when they were 2 and 3 years old. Alison lives in Edwalton with her husband Bryan, children Olivia, Annabel and Elliot and their Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Coco.

When she is not working at pre-school, Alison loves visiting the library and reading. She also loves walking Coco early in the morning, whilst listening to Sam and Amy on Gem 106.

Increase in Fees

Please note that from September 2013 our fees will increase by 50p to £9.50 per session.