

# St Michael's Church Pre-School and Nursery

## Newsletter

The Old Vicarage, 24 North Road, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 4PB

January 2014  
Welcome!!!



Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely Christmas and a well-deserved break! We want to start the New Year with lots of exciting dates for your diary, please see the next page.

As it is the start of a new term, we would also like to send a

warm welcome to all the new children and parents. We hope your children are settling in and that your time in the setting will be a happy one. If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions the office door is always open!

**Vanessa and the Team**

### Pre-School and Nursery News

#### Nativity success

Thank you to all that attended the Crib and Nativity services. The children had lots of fun dressing up and singing carols. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

#### Paving

Check out our new paving! We are currently having a new

sensory path built in the garden. The children have contributed to the development of the path by choosing their favourite toys to be buried under see-through blocks.

We look forward to the final product.



#### Farwell...

It is with sadness that we have to inform you Richael will be leaving us at the end of January. Richael has been a great asset to the setting and will be missed by all staff, parents and especially the children. We know parents and staff will want to wish her every success as she takes up her new post as Manager of Wells Cathedral Nursery School in Somerset. ☺

#### Keeping you up-to-date

facebook

Did you know that we have a Facebook page?

Please Like and share!

### Policy of the Term- PARENTS AS PARTNERS POLICY



We believe that in order for children to receive quality care and early learning that suits their individual needs, parents and staff need to work together in a close partnership, there are many ways we do this.

- Parents/Carers / Grandparents/ welcome to come and play in the setting.
- Parents Forum.
- Conversations with your child's key person.
- Access to your child's profile.
- Parents are able to inspect all the Pre-School and Nursery's policies and procedures at any time.
- Keeping you informed about special events.
- Displaying our menu.
- Suggestion box in the hallway.
- Parents' Conferences/ events are held regularly.
- Listening to your views through annual questionnaires.
- We have a complaint system.

If you would like to see the full policy, please look in our operational plan in the hallway. Or if you have any ideas or suggestions for working in partnership please see Vanessa in the office.

## Get Involved

**Parental involvement in early years' education has a positive impact on your child's learning and development. There are many ways in which you can get involved in your child's time at the setting. How about filling in a "wow certificate", coming into play or taking home our cookery bag or treasure basket (baby room).**

### Introducing our Parents Committee

We are pleased to announce that we have set up a Parent's Committee. There are six members on the Committee. Their names are Julie Harkness, Liz Farrell, Sherry Jacobs, Steve Smith, Heather Woodcraft and Kathryn Bridgford.

We had our first meeting before Christmas, where we decided our initial objectives over tea and biscuits and had a good chat. The objectives are as follows.

- To increase parent/carer involvement at the Nursery and Pre-School.
- To improve on communication and consultation between the nursery and parents/carers: i.e.: Facebook, Website and notice-boards.
- To organise events that can incorporate fund raising as well as create opportunities for parents/carers to get to know staff and each other.

The Parents Committee is available for you to discuss any ideas, issues and/ or concerns that you have regarding the Nursery/ Pre-school and they can bring these to future meetings on your behalf. We are currently looking at a way that you can communicate with the committee.

### Holiday Homework (Baby Room and Caterpillar room)

Thank you to the parents that completed their holiday homework and brought in pictures of your child's time at Christmas. These have made great additions to our book corners. If you would like to make a family book, to display in our book corners these are greatly appreciated in all areas of the setting.



### Song Time at Home



Does your child enjoy a favourite song at home?

Could you share it with us at nursery/ pre-school? Sharing songs is an excellent way of encouraging and developing language, communication skills and building relationships.

If you have any special songs please provide the lyrics to Jill Cole, who is compiling a list of our favourite songs or why not come in and share them at circle time!

## Dates for your diary (January-March 2014)

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### School leavers coffee morning

We will be holding a coffee morning for parents of children starting school in September 2014. This will be held on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> February at the Old School Rooms, 9.15-11.30. We hope this morning will give you the opportunity to look through your child's profile and talk to staff. A Member of staff from Filton Library will also be attending to talk about the Book Start Campaign and hand out your child's Book start Pack.

### Valentine's Day- February 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 (Friday)

The children are invited to wear red or pink on this day. There will be lots of red and pink activities throughout the day.

### World book day- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (Thursday)

Children are invited to come to Pre-school and Nursery dressed as a character from their favourite book. The children can also bring in their favourite books to share with friends.

### Mother's day Tea Party – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

We would like to celebrate Mother's day this year by having a tea party for our child's mummies and/or other special ladies in their lives. If your child attends the setting on a Wednesday you will soon receive a special invitation.