

# Patricia Pilgrim Nursery News Bulletin



Summer  
Edition  
2011

Fay Pilgrim  
Nursery Principal

and

Graham Pilgrim  
Joint Nursery owner

Stephanie Barry  
Nursery Manager

With Wimbledon over for another year summer is fully upon us, however the truly glorious weather experienced here in the South East has been in place for almost all of the time since March. Therefore the planting of the “*outdoor willow room*” could hardly have been better timed to coincide with the twentieth anniversary of nursery opening.

The willow has been in full leaf for at least two months and our children have been able to take advantage, almost every day, to have sessions out of doors in the eco-meadow.

A mistake made (mine) in the interpretation of the design and planting instructions, lead to a considerable number of willow rods being found surplus to requirements.

(similar experience to assembling flat pack furniture - where should this bit have gone?)

However with turning every disaster into an opportunity as a mantra, we were able to construct a “*willow wigloo*” for the under two unit. Nursery now has three naturally growing spaces for our children. Considerable fun can be had weaving the growing branches and leaves back into the structure, enabling children to handle living material and to realise just how fragile young plant growth is. (it came off in my hand – honest)

Unfortunately planting of any crop deemed desirable to squirrels, rabbits and pigeons in the tyre planters has been met with considerable delight from

squirrel nut kin, flopsy, mopsy and co. and mixed descendants of speckley jim (apologies to Black Adder).

Peas, sweet corn, cabbages and sun flowers have all been ravaged. In the case of the disappearing sun flowers, no less than sixty five plants were devoured in seventy two hours!!!... Black currant bushes and raspberry canes appear to be more resistant.

It may be time to reconsider our growing strategy – definitely some kind of protection will be required if edible crops are to be attempted in the field again.

More successfully our children have planted seeds in the timber planters and there food is growing that will be used for lunches in the future. Tomato, potato, beetroot, carrot, cabbage, pea, courgette and runner beans to name but a few.

So here is to our gardeners of the future – who knows, one day we might be able to say “that gardening programme presenter was always interested in plants at nursery”. Good luck to our leavers going on to big school, enjoy the summer and your holidays.

*Fay and Graham Pilgrim*  
Nursery Owners

P.S. Keep those pumpkins well watered during these hot months.

## A few words from our Manager Stephanie Barry!

*Good Luck to all children moving on to school after the summer.  
I'm sure they will all have a great time.*

It's that time of year again when we say goodbye to most of the children in the pre-school room as they make the giant step to primary school. But we also welcome the children from the baby unit and of course new starters.

It has been quite a busy term starting with the changes to the 2-5's unit in April. I am sure you will agree it has improved the learning environment for the children and they seem to have adapted well to the new areas. We will continue to evaluate especially when we have the big change around in September and younger children are accessing the space.

To help us with this and our evaluation of the care and learning opportunities we offer your children, could you please fill in and return either by e-mail or as a hard copy the attached questionnaire. If your child is in the 2-5 unit you will receive a hard copy of a questionnaire for you to fill in with your child as we would like to find out what they think about their nursery experience. There are also a couple of other forms for you to fill in with regards to leaving dates for children going to school in September and summer holiday dates.

If your child is making the move to the 2-5 unit you will receive a letter in due course and are welcome to arrange a visit to the unit. The children will be offered visits over the next few months and if your child is a term time only child and you feel they will benefit from some visits during the holidays please give us a ring and we will organise these for you.

All children in the 2-5 unit are required to bring



to nursery a labelled sports cup, outside clothes suitable for all weathers and a spare set of clothes. Thank you.

Could I also remind you to inform your child's key person when your child has been ill over the weekend or on the days they don't attend nursery. This is so we can keep other parents informed of illnesses going round the nursery and we can be aware of why your child may be extra tired or irritable. Can I also refer you to our sickness policy as there are a few illnesses that require your child to stay away from nursery until they are well. If you require another copy please inform the office.

Over the next few months a number of the permanent staff will be taking holiday including myself. We have a number of bank staff who we try to use on a regular basis so the children become familiar with them. Bianca will work mainly in the baby unit and has recently passed her Btech level 3. Louise, her mum, will work in both units and has worked in a playgroup in the past. Sarah Hunt has also returned to us for the summer and will help in both units. She has been at university for the last year and is looking forward to spending time with the children.

I hope everyone has a great summer.

Stephanie.

## Stephanie and June's General Admin Page

### Diary Dates

#### Teddy Bears Picnic (baby unit)

19<sup>th</sup> July 2.45 – 4.30. You are welcome to attend messy activities with your child followed by a picnic. If your child doesn't attend this session you and they are welcome to attend but the children must be accompanied by an adult. Please fill in and return the attached form as soon as possible.

#### Big Toddle (all ages)

11<sup>th</sup> August 10am. We will be holding a sponsored walk on behalf of Barnardo's followed by a picnic in the nursery grounds. All parents and children are invited to walk around the village common and to return to the nursery for a picnic. Details to follow with sponsor forms.

#### School term starts.

5th September 2011.

#### Half-term.

24<sup>th</sup> - 28th October 2011 inclusive.



### Sickness

Colds / flu / diarrhoea / vomiting

If your child is unwell please don't bring them into nursery to infect all the other children!

If your child has diarrhoea or sickness, please don't forget that they must be away for at **least 48 hours** from their last bout.

Also, your child mustn't come into nursery for 24 hours from the start of any antibiotics or eye drops.

### Opening and Closing

Please bring your child into nursery at the start of their session (not before) and pick them up promptly at the end.

Don't forget - **late pick-ups and early drop off's will incur charges!**

Full day 8am – 6pm

School Day 9.00am - 3.30pm

AM session 9.00am - 12.30pm

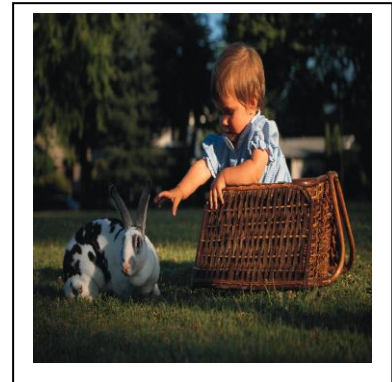
PM session 1.30pm - 5.00pm

### Hot Summer days

We have had some very warm / hot summer days this year so can we remind you to bring in sun hats and sun cream for your child also a labeled water bottle if your child is in the 2-5 unit..

If possible can you apply sun cream to your child before nursery but remember to inform a member of staff.

The staff will apply the



cream when necessary and will fill in a form saying the time and date the cream was applied.

Please also ensure all clothing and belongings are labeled to avoid confusion and losses.

**News from Betty**



*Betty – Our Nursery Teacher*

***Thank you for all your support we have collected 3341 vouchers for Sainsbury's and 7819 for Tesco's***

Just a very short note from me this time to keep you up-to-date with the development of recruiting my replacement.

Once I leave the nursery nurses will make sure that the children will have extra numeracy and literacy input during this time. They will also carry on with weekly P.E. activities and will hold regular assembly time.

I wish all the very BEST for the future for everybody at Patricia Pilgrim Nursery! I feel very sad to leave this lovely and friendly nursery, but I have some lovely memories of children, staff and various events!

Thank you for everybody for this wonderful seven years!

Betty

**Unplanned Absences**

If your child is not going to be present on their normal day(s) due to sickness or any other reason, please let us know in advance if possible but if not then by at least 10.00am on the day.

This stops us getting concerned and also helps us to ensure that the staffing to children ratios are correctly maintained.

**Donations required:**

Kitchen roll tubes, small boxes e.g raisins boxes, yoghurt pots and any natural resources but no large boxes, egg boxes and toilet rolls.  
Thank you





*Terri is the Deputy Manager and works in the Pre-school Unit*



lunch and tidy up times.

We have been enjoying beautiful weather so far this summer which means we have been able to spend lovely long days learning outside in the garden amongst, (I must say) some amazing thriving vegetable seedlings and wild flowers which were planted and taken care of by the children. Thank you very much to all of our keen little gardeners who have been helping to water them!

Outside we have also been making full use of the lovely new eco- field where we have been having stories with the use of props, and snack in the willow room. We have, of course been practicing for sports day which is nearly upon us! Please try to remind your son/daughter which colour group they are in and who is their adult helper. This will be very helpful for them to remember on the day!

I am really looking forward to enjoying a lovely picnic with parents, children and staff afterwards so please be sure to do a little sun dance in the morning for us!

Let's all hope the weather is here to stay so that we can enjoy our last few weeks together before the holidays begin, and unfortunately we start to say goodbye to some of our bigger children who are ripe and ready for their next adventure - school!! You have all been a pleasure to look after and the nursery will certainly seem quieter and empty without you. **GOOD LUCK AT BIG SCHOOL!**

We have been reflecting upon how successful the merging of dragonflies and butterflies has been and are glad to say that children can now enjoy a room with much more space, resources, and a varied learning environment. The staff and I are working together to see how we can improve the daily routine to minimize disruption to learning and play at busy times such as after

We are also preparing for children make their visits from the baby unit to the 2-5 unit. During the month of August the children's new key person from the 2-5 unit will spend some time with them in the baby unit so the children can get to know this important person in familiar surroundings. The children will then visit the 2-5 unit with their key person before they move in September. For the children who attend the nursery during the term only we will contact them and invite them into nursery during these important visits. If you would like the opportunity to look around the unit or to meet your child's new key person, please speak to Stephanie, Tracey or Terri so that we can arrange a mutually convenient time.

Just a few more things-

For children moving up in September, we will send a note home advising you of your child's new key person.

If you would like to arrange a parent consultation with your child's current key person please speak to them individually or come and see myself or Stephanie.

The staff are working hard to arrange some fun themed days in the holidays for the children. Previously we have had water play days, circus days and pirates days. Please look out for details and book early if you would like your child to participate in any of these!

I am going to put a school children contact sheet on the wall. Please feel free to add to it if you would like to keep in touch with parents or children heading to different schools.

Thank you for reading!

## Tracey's Page



*Tracey is the Deputy  
Manager in the Baby Unit*

### Welcome!

It's come to that time of year again when we have to say goodbye to our older children to the 2-5 unit, they will all be missed lots by the staff but will still be able to say hello when we pop over. Emma our new member of staff has settled in nicely into the toddler room and we would also like to welcome Bianca our bank staff assistant.

We will be holding our annual teddy bears picnic on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July for the children, parents and their teddies to join in some fun sensory activities and a picnic, all are welcome – please fill in the form if you wish to attend. We will also on the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> July be holding a summer theme for that week for the children.

Over the summer months we have been spending lots of time in the garden and are in the process of reconstructing new areas such as mark making area, role play and also making the most of our willow dome. The children had great fun throughout the heat period especially with the water and hose pipes out and have also enjoyed helping water our plants we have potted

### Child Comforters

We know that some children need a comforter but could you please try to limit this to only one comforter per child – to be kept in a bag unless needed.

Also can you encourage your child to keep toys at home

up, we do however still need waterproofs for the children as although it's the summer months we do still get rainy days and without their waterproofs it means we cannot explore the fun of the rain.

Lastly if you wish to see your child's learning journey before end of term or would like to arrange a meeting before their next room change please let their key person know. The staff and I wish you a lovely summer

Tracey and her team.



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Edited by:  
Stephanie

**La Jolie Ronde  
 French for Children**

Please don't forget that Mrs Elisabeth Anderson runs special French classes for our children here at the nursery on Tuesday afternoons. A new term will start in September .

If you are interested please ask for more information in the Office or contact Mrs Anderson direct on 01371-875928 or e-mail [elisabeth@greatdunmow.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:elisabeth@greatdunmow.freeserve.co.uk)

**Cheques**

**Please remember that all cheques payable should be made out to:**

**'Patricia Pilgrim Nursery'**

*About the Nursery.....  
 "Childhood – where our future begins"*