



Patricia Pilgrim Nursery News Bulletin

Winter
Edition
2014

Fay Pilgrim
Nursery Principal

and

Graham Pilgrim
Joint Nursery owner

Stephanie Barry
Nursery Manager

At the end of July 2014 Colin, nursery's "Man Friday" retired. Colin has been very involved at nursery for almost ten and a half years. His input and work rate has been much under stated, very much like Colin's persona. There are however far too many items that bear Colin's stamp, be it an idea, a project or just keeping ahead of the myriad of objects that break, fail or wear out, to list. Our last project together was to put in place the "shade sails". We choose the hottest day of the year so far to do this - 17th July - 30C in the shade. But what a great and instant change in micro climate for the children underneath, with an "Indian Summer" throughout September the sails have been a great addition. Colin now has retired. Retired to undertake a two year project at his new home - his ability, professionalism and general good nature is already very much missed.

Several parents have asked where the sails were available from, and the answer is:
[primrose .co.uk](http://primrose.co.uk) currently with a sale on.

One of the nursery family of parents approached with an offer to conduct, produce and make available a 360 degree "Virtual Tour". This is a must-have tool for a business that needs to display itself on face book or on a web site etc. Our virtual tour is a splendid and very professional bird's eye view of the nursery grounds and rooms. Allowing us to reach out to parents who have yet to move to the area, or indeed those who have not yet plucked up the courage to brave the depths of Stebbing Green CM6 3TD. Anyone interested in having such an undertaking produced should make enquiries though the nursery office.

The yearly "Pumpkin Competition. took place after half term and congratulations to Edie and Lily who won the competition.

My pumpkins came to naught. In desperation I turned to a packet of seeds bought in Austria in 2007 (marked use before end of 2009) - lost but then mysteriously found in a drawer. So, nothing lost I raised six plants in the greenhouse and then planted them out. And did they grow! From these six plants I produced 78 Gourds. The photograph of the crop can be seen on [facebook.com/patriciapilgrimnursery](https://www.facebook.com/patriciapilgrimnursery). I intend to save some of the seeds, dry them, and then hope to provide gourd plants for the children next year as a change, with the prospect of a lot of different shapes, colours and sizes, with of course a competition for the largest, heaviest and prettiest.

Graham Pilgrim
Nursery Owner

FINDERS FEE

ARE YOU TELLING **ALL YOUR FRIENDS** ABOUT YOUR **GREAT CHILDCARE?** If Not Why Not? Can you Really do without your **"FINDERS FEE"** DISCOUNT? Go on - you **Know** it makes sense.

Ask for details from the office.

A few words from our Manager Stephanie Barry!

OFSTED: GOOD

"Staff accurately observe and assess children and plan for the next stage of their learning. As a result, the teaching meets children's needs and they are well prepared for the next stage in their development.



It's that time of year again when the nursery is very busy with concert practice, Christmas parties to organise, room moves in January etc but the children will have a great time with all the fun activities that the practitioners organise.

As many of you will have noticed especially if your child attends the baby unit, Bianca is pregnant and will be going on maternity leave on 12th December as the baby is due in January 2015. I am sure you all join me in wishing her well with the new baby and to come and visit once the baby is born. Whilst she is on maternity leave Emma Allen and Emma Loe will be working with the children upstairs.

We had a large influx of babies in 2012 and this has meant we will have a large number of 3 year olds and above during the next 2 terms. In order to accommodate this some 3 year olds will stay in the upstairs room in the baby unit until September. We have made arrangements to support their learning and development by asking for advice from our Early Years advisor who seemed happy with our plans. The children will spend some time in the older unit either joining them in the large outside area, Stella, our teacher will visit them in the younger unit to involve them in some of the activities that she does and they will be involved in activity mornings, where the children will join the older unit for specific activities, for example messy play, number games.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to come and talk to myself, Terri or Tracey.

Because we will have so many children in our 2-5 unit if you are thinking of increasing your child's days please can you let us know sooner than later

as I would prefer to offer the limited places available to children who already attend the setting than new children. A change of session form can be obtained either from the office or the 2-5 unit.

I hope you agree that our recent OFSTED report reads well. Since this inspection, we have made some changes in the 2-5 unit in order to support your children in developing their skills towards independence. We have introduced a jobs board where children will be given a job for the day, e.g. giving the cups out at lunch time. This will support independence but also numbers by guestimating how many cups you need for the number of children at a table and then counting to make sure you have it correct. We already involve the children in rolling snack where the children can choose when they sit down for snack, pour their own drinks and chose what they would like to eat. To enhanced this we are encouraging the children to serve themselves their own lunch. Naturally this could mean your child will not choose vegetables with their meal but don't worry we will still suggest they have a small portion of all the foods available on their plate. When finished, they are scraping any uneaten food into a pot and putting their dirty plate on the side and cutlery into another pot. This has gone surprisingly well with very few spills. I apologise if it is causing you any issues because your child is insisting on serving themselves at home.

If you have any concerns or wish to have a chat about your child's progress or any issues about your child please don't hesitate to ask myself, Tracey or Terri.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas.

Stephanie.

Diary Dates

End of term.

24th December 2014 at 4pm.
Please fill in attached form to inform us when your child will be attending nursery that week.

Spring term

5th January - 27th March 2015

Half term

16th February - 20th February 2015.

Christmas Parties.

17th December 2014, 10.15 - 12.30.
Everyone welcome even if you do not attend on that session. A visit from Father Christmas and a party lunch to be enjoyed by all.

Christmas Concert in 2-5 unit.

9th December at 2pm

10th December at 10.30.

If you wish to attend you can only book **2 tickets per family**. If we find we have spaces we will hand out these on a first come first serve basis.

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



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

Cold and frosty Winter days

If we should have any snow please remember to either check the nursery web site or listen to BBC Essex radio for an announcement or contact the nursery direct to see if we are opening. Not only do you have to venture out, but we must make sure that our staff can also get to the nursery as not all of them live locally.

However, even if we have a mild winter when days look bright and sunny, it can still get very cold - so please do remember that all the children still need to wrap up for garden play – coats, hats, gloves, scarves and Wellingtons



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

Thank you.

Named Clothes

Please can we remind you to label your child's clothes with their name as we have a number of children with the same coats, shoes, hats etc and we are unable to make sure the go in the correct bag if they are un-named.
Thank you.



Stella – Our Nursery Teacher



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.

Hello from Stella,

I would like to take this opportunity to say 'welcome' to all the children who are be coming to work with me this term. We will be very busy with our mark-making activities, listening for sounds, counting and enjoying a variety of stories and rhymes. Next term we will begin giving out the wordless reading books to the children who are getting ready to go to school and starting to look at letter sounds.

We will of course be continuing with a P.E. session each week. If the weather is too wet or cold we will do a dance activity indoors. Just a little reminder about P.E. kits please. The children need shorts, a t-shirt and trainers or plimsolls, with a sweatshirt and jogging bottoms for cooler days. The kit should be in a separate bag to their other clothes and also named. We do encourage the children to learn to change for P.E., ready for their move to Primary school.

Now that the summer seems well and truly over, this can only mean one thing - its countdown to Christmas. This term we will be practicing for our Christmas concert - a medley of Christmas songs. Please feel free to take a copy of the songs so you can practice at home.

Also please take a look in your child's learning journey for a summary of the activities the children have been doing with me.

I can be contacted by e-mail at stella@ppn.eclipse.co.uk



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

I would like to say a big belated welcome to all of our youngsters who have moved up from the baby unit. You have all settled in very well and we have been very pleased to get to know every one of you! It's lovely to see our younger children becoming confident little individuals, more independent with managing their personal needs such as attempting to put coats on and wellies for outdoor play. Some of them are even getting to grips with toileting needs. We have so much more fun to have and are looking forward to a busy and exciting year ahead.

I am also extremely proud of the children who have been with us a little longer; you have now become our 'grown up' children! You have all been super stars in getting your 'all in one's' on as independently as possible, managing your shoes and getting changed once a week for P.E too!

If your child is toilet training please ensure they have plenty of spare clothes in their bags as supplies are getting low! It also helps your child significantly if they are dressed in clothes and shoes that they can manage themselves such as jogging bottoms with an elasticated waist, and Velcro or slip on shoes. It can be such a disappointment for the children if they have managed to get all the way to the toilet in time, only to fall at the last hurdle with a very uncooperative pair of tight denim jeans, a belt that Houdini couldn't find his way out of and a button that just won't budge!

So we can deny it no longer, it is definitely November! The cold weather is upon us but has not stopped the fun, and we have all been very busy! We had our Halloween party, which although was a quiet downsized affair, was extremely good fun and enjoyed by those who attended. Next was the children in need dress up day which helped us to raise a significant amount for the charity. I must say though, it appears that 'grandparents day' was extremely popular and a roaring success. We had lots of grans, grannies nannies, nanas and granddads, grampas, grampies and papas attend a wonderful tea party. The children really seemed to enjoy the responsibility of showing their family members around, and entertaining them with their favourite toys here at the nursery.



Thank you so much to all who came, definitely one to be repeated next year!

The children also enjoyed their second music and movement session hosted by Rachel Clarke. The sessions were great fun and incredibly imaginative and entertaining for the children, there were smiles and laughter all round.

Thank you so much for coming to see us Rachel.

Later this week some of us will enjoy a story session hosted by Katie Hugh from a local book company, which should be great fun too.

We have some more learning bags! I'm pleased to inform you that there are now 'satpin' learning bags available for the children to borrow. These letters, 'S A T P I N' are the first six sounds that the children will be learning and there are plenty of pictures, rhymes and activities in each bag to help your child become familiar with them. Throughout the year we will be adding more sounds, so keep checking the box! Please just let a member of staff know when you borrow one, or write it down in one of the books so that we can keep track of where they are! Also if you have had the same one at home for a little while please return it as soon as possible so that another child can enjoy it.

I have also been adding some homemade books to the borrowing books box, as the children seem to really like looking at pictures of themselves!! At present, these include our tractor book, our pizza book, our really funny joke book, and our grandparents book. Keep your eyes peeled for these.

Don't forget our Christmas Party on 17th December and please fill in the attached form so we know if you are coming to join in the fun.

Thank you
Terri and her team.



Tracey is the Deputy Manager in the Baby Unit

It's been a hectic few months for us in the baby unit but it's been lots of fun.

We celebrated Diwali by creating Rangoli name patterns, we decorated tea lights and enjoyed counting sweets into cake cases this then led us nicely onto Halloween and we had a lovely party jam packed full of fun crafts to make and do including some lovely dressing up.

You all embraced our Children in Need dressing up too and wore your PJ's or dressed as Superhero's. You all looked fab!

Other topics we have covered were bonfire night and our main one Autumn.

The children have loved the seasonal change and have been able to jump in the muddy puddles and run through the fallen leaves. We used this to create wonderful art creations. We even produced an autumn sensory basket filled with Autumnal objects such as Gourds, leaves, conkers and pinecones. We are hoping to continue our seasonal baskets, so please if you have any objects that you feel will be ideal for a winter one, we will be most grateful.

Can we also take this chance to thank all the Grandparents that came to our afternoon tea, it was lovely to see so many of you.



Our next main topic to finish the year is Winter and Christmas, we have lots planned, so expect lots of glitter, paint and glue for the next few weeks.

Don't forget the party on Wednesday 17th December 2014. All are welcome and we are hoping for a visit from Santa himself. Please remember to fill in and return the attached form relating to the last week before Christmas and the party.

Talking of Winter, just a brief reminder to bring in warmer clothes and even some slippers to prevent missing socks and cold feet. It is amazing how quick toddlers and babies can remove their socks.

Last of all we say a big farewell to Bianca who will be going on maternity leave soon to have her baby, we will miss her lots but are sure she will be visiting us often.

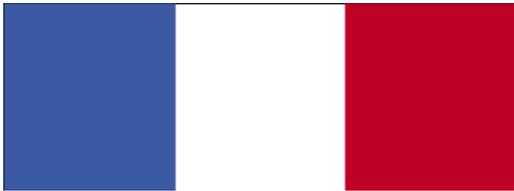
Thank you, to all of you that have donated toys and brought in family photos when we have requested them. We value your support.

All the best.
Tracey and her team.

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



Cheques

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

**'Patricia Pilgrim
Nursery'**

Patricia Pilgrim Memorial Day Care Nursery and Nursery School

1 Saling Road
Stebbing Green
Gt Dunmow
Essex
CM6 3TD

PHONE:
01371 856594
01371 856702

Email
nm@patriciapilgrimnursery.co.uk

WEBSITE
www.patriciapilgrimnursery.co.uk

Edited by:
Stephanie

Road Safety

Parents are reminded that nursery has car and lorry movements on site, and of course along the very busy road outside nursery premises, throughout the day.

Would you all please be aware that you need to be in control of your own child/children at all times **prior** to set down inside the buildings, and **after** uplift from inside the buildings.

Preferably holding toddlers/under fives by the hand, and carrying babies.

As you are all no doubt aware children move very quickly, some drivers (but not all) are not paying attention to the nursery speed limit of **FIVE MILES PER HOUR**.

Many thanks.
Graham Pilgrim
Nursery Owner

About the Nursery.....

"Childhood – where our future begins"