

Spring 2016



# Smisbydaynurserynewsletter



## News in general

Firstly, welcome back to our newsletter which we hope you will enjoy and find informative. Our aim is to keep you up to date with nursery life, forthcoming events, and work in partnership with parents to have the best outcome for the children.

### Congratulations

Big congratulations to Linda Whitby and Nicola Maguire for completing their level 3 qualification. We are very proud of all your hard work.



### Welcome to the family



Shannon joined us in early January as maternity cover for Lizzie. Shannon has settled in Pre-School well and is enjoying her role. Shannon is looking at embarking on her level 3 course in the near future.

Lizzie and Chris are now proud parents to Jessica



Ann, a sister for Katie, born on 22nd of February at 23:08 weighing 6lb 8ozs. Welcome to the world Jessica!

Lorna has joined us as a full time member of the Baby room. Lorna has a level 2 & 3 in Social Care and is looking to start a level 3 in childcare soon. She is enjoying baby room and her caring nature has made her fit in very well.



### Bank Staff



Danny has been back in the nursery during half term helping us out as a member of our Bank Staff. The kids love having Danny around and he slots in wherever we ask him to.

Sharon, our fabulous cleaner, has in recent months shown an interest in becoming a member of



our Bank staff and has recently been helping us out in Baby room. Sharon is a natural in the rooms and we are very lucky to have her.

### Garden

We have big plans for the garden this year, especially now the new build is finished we can start to plan areas for development. Our mud kitchen will be reinstated in its very own area where children can explore a multi-sensory and movement rich environment.

We are also working on a music wall where the children can use their imagination and motor skills to interact and experience different sounds everyday objects make.

Once the ground dries out a bit more we will be grassing up to the new building and making the very most of the garden. Smiz kids are itching to get out their den making material and enjoy the outdoor space.

We would have liked to have had the new gates and fencing in place by now but unfortunately the delivery was delayed. However it has now all been delivered and will be installed very soon.



## W B D

### World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March 2016

World Book Day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading. In fact, it's the biggest celebration of its kind, designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and marked in over 100 countries all over the world.

This year we are asking all staff and children to come to Nursery dressed as a character from the Julia Donaldson collection. Books like The Gruffalo, Room on the Broom and Tabby McTat. We hope to have a fun day and celebrate our wonderful world of books.

All of the children will be given vouchers towards, or in exchange for, a book. Be quick because bookstores run out of the free books very quickly.





## Parent Questionnaire

Many thanks to those who completed the questionnaires. 100% were happy with the service we are providing. We have analysed the information below and have taken all the comments on board. We are currently working through the comments and suggestions in order to

improve and constantly strive to be the best we can. The comments and full analysis are available upon request from either Sheila or Ian.



## Quality of care and support

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
68.4%	29.4%	2.2%	0.0%

On the whole there was high praise for the quality of care and support. Staff turnover was a concern for one and was perceived as quite high. We have had staff naturally move due to career changes. One of which returned to us very shortly after leaving. The nursery staff has 156.5 years of service between them which is extremely

high. 16 out of 26 staff have more than five years of service and 6 have more than 10 years. Last year Dawn celebrated 20 years service with us. The management team have 60 years combined service.

Some parents were unaware of our safeguarding policy. This and many other policies can be found in the main entrance in a folder labelled

'Parents policies'. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with this folder. However, we are always on hand to discuss any concerns or provide information as and when required.

Many parents commented on how happy their children were and how they felt their children were loved and valued.



## Quality of environment

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
72.2%	23.5%	3.1%	1.2%

It was quite strongly communicated that parents were unaware of the location of notice boards. There are many displays and information throughout the nursery which can seem like information overload. The parent's notice boards are there for specific

information which you can check daily. Please ask a member of staff to show you where this is in your child's room. We are limited to space but will endeavour to contain all info for parents within these boards for ease of use and to improve communication and

information to parents.

The garden and rural nature of our setting was featured as one of our strongest points. Parents liked the fact we go outside frequently and that we take trips to the park and on walks around the village.



## Quality of staffing

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
71.1%	27.8%	1.1%	0.0%

Parents felt that staff have good relationships with children and that they are welcomed as individuals.

Children also comment on the bonds they have with staff. Parents felt staff listened to and implemented their wishes

and worked well in partnership with them. Staff are described as happy, bright and cheerful.



## Comments

Here are a few of the comments we received.

I have been really happy with the care and support from day one and at every stage since. I would and do recommend the nursery to anyone in the area.

Can't fault anything. Nicola and the team in Pre-school couldn't be more accommodating.

Very happy with Smisby Day Nursery. My child enjoys it and we are very happy with the care. I like the creativity and messy activities. If she comes home dirty we know she has had a good day and we love it.

I find you all brilliant from the top down.

It is clear that our child bonds well with everyone and we feel that we are well informed. When we have raised queries they have been managed well.

The building is bright and colourful. I like that it's full of the children's work and photos of them.

The staff are all exceptional. In every room the staff have been friendly and approachable. They never dismiss concerns and offer valuable advice.

My child's best interest is always put first. I know he is safe and happy at Smisby.

The setting was the thing which first attracted me to the nursery as opposed to closer sites in Ashby. The new building makes it even better.

Management are always there to listen to any queries I have had

## Quality of management and leadership

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
68.4%	29.4%	2.2%	0.0%

Many parents do not have direct involvement with the management in respect of the Directors and the Officer in Charge, but those who have were appreciative of the support they received and the swiftness and sensitivity shown when dealing with concerns/queries. The roles and responsibilities of management and staff will be covered in forthcoming newsletters which will give a better understanding of

what happens on a day to day basis.

Accounts were praised for being well managed. Queries were dealt with in a helpful and patient manner.

## Suggestions for improvement and comments

Suggestions were varied and interesting to read. Some suggestions including parent and child sessions, newsletters, fun day and room topic information are already being considered. The newsletter will improve communication and along

with the Facebook page we hope that parents will get a better understanding on what happens on a daily basis and who is caring for their child.

Comments reflected that parents were happy with their choice of nursery. It

was felt that children enjoyed attending the setting and had positive experiences. Children and parents especially felt safe and valued. Parents felt strongly that they would and do recommend the nursery to others.

## Analysis of children's comments

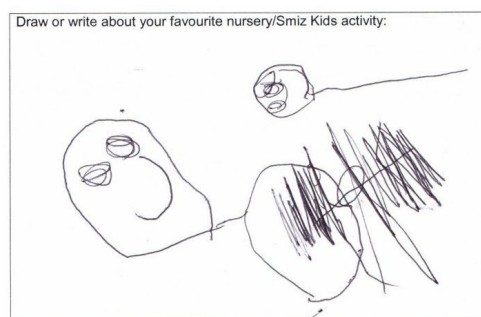
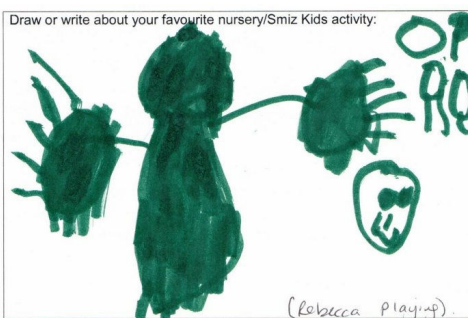
Our most important customers' comments were the children's. They told us how much they enjoyed playing outside and they described the different activities and toys they enjoyed. Smiz Kids were very vocal about the Wii and the activities and crafts they enjoyed. There were comments that made us smile and

suggestion that we are considering.

Smiz kids comments were quite comprehensive and focussed on tea portions and food preferences, extra clubs (War Hammer, Gymnastics etc) and availability of quiet areas.

An iPad and a request to 'make it summer' have also been requested.

Nursery children enjoyed the Forest school trips



Scarlet Says this is a Scarecrow

and we are already considering making our garden into a more interactive natural space and exploring our local environment on a regular basis. There was a suggestion of a pet for Pre-school. We have fish and have in the past had a rabbit and various insects etc. We will carefully consider a pet again and will consult the children for their ideas.

## Childs view

We asked the children what they liked too.

- I like making things, drawing, playing with the toys
- Playing on the scooters and bikes.
- Painting
- Outside play
- Tractors, diggers and climbing
- Colouring
- Cooking and all the playing
- Playing in the home corner
- Dancing
- Computer work
- Everything!
- Messy play
- Creative time
- Meal times
- Lovely staff
- Doing activities and making things
- Mud Kitchen
- I like drawing and chalking and playing with friends
- I don't like crusts on pizza but I do love mince and rice and chicken with sauce

## Parent Help

We always seem to deplete our stock of clothes as we use them as spare changes for the children. If you have any nursery clothes or clothes that your little one has grown out of please bear us in mind.

Pre-school are making sensory bottles so if you have any 500ml plastic bottles you could save from your recycling we can put them to good use.



## Toddlers

Toddler room have been very patient in waiting for their outdoor playground to be finished and fenced. Once this is complete you will see the space transformed and the children and staff can make it their own. Lots of planting is planned of vegetables and flowers and if you have any spare planting troughs that you would like to donate they would be appreciated.

Toddlers kitchen has not been working well so we have found an alternative which is in need of a little TLC but we have high hopes for it.

Some of the topics and activities being covered in the next few weeks will be Mothers day and Easter crafts and activities.

We are sadly saying goodbye to Lucie and Rebecca due to relocation.

We have enjoyed having the girls with us in Nursery and are going to miss them very much. Please keep in touch.

Robyn, Rio, Hattie and Freya will be moving up to Pre-school this term. They are growing so fast in their confidence and independence. Watch out Pre-school they're coming to get you!!!

## Baby Room

Baby room have had an influx of young babies and the whole nursery is enjoying cooing over them. We have recently invested in some new equipment for the room. Two new Bumbo's, a Jumperoo, a swinging chair and a bottle prep machine.

The topics and activities this term are Mothers day crafts, Easter crafts, focussing on baby animals. The children will be going for walks in the community and looking at the spring flowers.

The family photo books are a great success. The children are looking at them during the day and use them for many things including comfort, identifying eyes, nose etc and developing recognition. Please keep these up to date with new pictures of family members and friends.

Darcey, Megan and Rory will all be moving up to Toddler room and will be missed in babies. They really are little characters and we are all enjoying watching their progress.

## Pre School

Pre-school said goodbye to Sophie recently as she is moving out of the area. Sophie came to us as a baby following her older brother James. They have been part of the family at Smisby for over 6 years and James had made the transition through the nursery into Smiz Kids when he started school. We hope to keep in touch and see them occasionally when they visit.

There are many celebrations, topics and activities at this time of year which are usually centred around Chinese New year, Pancake Day, Valentines Day, Mothers Day etc. We will be celebrating Holi, Passover, St Patrick's, St David's and St George's Day along with Easter.

The children in Pre-school now have their very own 'Mixing Station'. Children are using the colour chart

to discover which colours mix to make another. They are being taught how many scoops to add to a measure of water so they can mix their own colours and this is proving very popular. For Holi we will be using vibrant colours and using syringes in art work.

Mini Beasts will be another topic where we will be introducing children to different species, habitats and life cycles. We will even be having some

## Outstanding work

Now Smiz kids has moved in we are discovering the things we need to do to enhance the setting. We will shortly be putting in the much needed coat hooks and

have installed some blinds. Display boards will also be installed so the children's work can be seen and celebrated.

The nursery building

requires constant maintenance and a few jobs have been delayed due to the new building work. We will be looking at a list of jobs shortly and ticking them off the list.

## Facebook



Find us on:  
**facebook.**

## New build for hire for parties at weekends

Now that our new building is complete it is available for children's parties at weekends and some evenings. Because it is a purpose built environment for children it is an ideal space for their party.

We especially feel that in the summer our garden, play equipment and space to play ball games makes it a perfect venue for parties.

Hire costs are £11.00 for 1 hour, £22 for up to 2.5 hours £33 for ½ a day (4

hours) and £55.00 for a Full day (8 hours). Hiring costs will be added to your Nursery invoice.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ian or Sheila for a booking form and conditions.

Our Facebook page is doing very well. For those who use Facebook we hope the posts give you information of upcoming events and an insight into some of the things we get up to. It is kept up to date regularly and we would like you to add your comments, like us and rate us if you visit the page.