



Kentisbeare Pre-School Newsletter

December 2009

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Welcome to this month's newsletter. We had a great response to our first emailed issue. We will continue with this and also send out any general reminders by email, as well as the traditional method of notes in children's trays. Thanks for all the positive comments – if there is anyone you know who hasn't received a copy, or you wish to comment further please contact either Bee McGrath (266567) or Suzanne McQueenie (266470).

We've had a few fun events in the last couple of weeks.

A group of children and parents visited the **Children's Centre** in Cullompton.

It was a lovely day and they had a chance to play inside and outside, as well as exploring the centre's new 'bear hunt garden'.

We hope to collaborate further with the centre in the new year. It has some excellent facilities and the children really enjoyed their trip out.

Izaak and Jack are pictured in the sandpit.



This month we were sad to say goodbye to 'Granny' **Clare Hornby**, pictured left. For the last nine years she has come in and helped, reading to the children, playing with them and helping with craft.

Family commitments mean she can no longer give up her Thursday afternoons. She has been an extremely popular visitor with all the Thursday afternoon children looking forward to her visit and she will be sorely missed.

Helen said: "We have been really grateful to Granny Clare for all the time she has given over the years. She would always arrive just after lunch and the children would get so excited when they saw her coming down the path. She is definitely going to be missed."

She was presented with a gift and a card on her last day and she has been invited to join us for the Christmas party and Nativity.

Hopefully everybody should have received the information about the **Christmas Party and Nativity** on December 15.

Just a reminder, parents need to attend with their children and slips need to be returned by Friday, December 11 so we have an idea of numbers. The party begins at 11.30am with lunch served at noon. The children will change for their Nativity at around 1pm. Please bring a Nativity costume for your child. Father Christmas will give out presents at around 1.15-1.30. Presents have been bought for all pre-school children. Parents need to supply a wrapped present (a book valued up to £3) for younger siblings if they wish them to receive a gift from Father Christmas. We are asking parents to bring in a cake or some biscuits for the group to share and the party will end at 2.30pm.

The children loved **Dads' week** which took place at the end of November. We had lots of visits from Dads and Grandads and they all said how lovely it was to see their children at the school.



We also had a fun time raising money for **Children in Need**.

We collected £15.38 for the charity with the children wearing their pyjamas and nighties for the day.

It was a good fun way to raise some money, so thanks to everybody who took part.



We are hoping to organise a **Christmas meal** for all parents and staff at the Wyndham Arms in January. Look out for information at the beginning of next term. We have decided to do it in the new year when things are a little quieter and hopefully more people will be able to attend.

Term dates for next year are: New term begins on January 6; half term takes place from February 15 to 19.

The older children who are leaving for primary school in January will be taking part in the **'Leavers' lunch'** this Friday (December 11). Parents are invited in and the children make them lunch. Mrs Hailey and Mrs Ainsworth also attend and present the children with their book bags, folders and certificates.

Good luck to Izaak, Isabelle, Flora, Archie, Ruby, Zac, Annie, Caitlin, Rosie and Dylan who make the big step up to primary school in January.

Here are some more pictures from the last few weeks.



Above left, Caitlin with her hedgehog, above right Isabel and Molly G play with the new kitchen and, right, Joe poses for the camera at the Children's Centre

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who makes this pre-school such a success. Our wonderful staff, parents and carers and of course, most importantly, our children.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.