



## SPRING NEWSLETTER (APRIL 2016)

### Welcome

Carousel Nursery would like to give a warm welcome to all the new children that have started in the last term!

### Announcements

#### New Staff

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new staff Kim Windebank (lunch time assistant), Kirsty Chamberlain (lunch time assistant), Natalie Edwards (trainee nursery nurse). We would also like to welcome back Sophie Parkins (trainee nursery nurse) and Wesley Skelly (nursery practitioner).

#### New Opening Hours

We now offer sessions starting from 6:30am when you book in advance, meaning we are now open 6:30-6pm five days a week, please see Mary for more info.

### Nursery Improvements

#### Sonos Sound System

Carousel Nursery now has a new Sonos sound system in place we currently have it in the babyroom but we will soon have it throughout the nursery in each of the rooms. It is a wireless sound system controlled by wifi through the computer in the office using speakers in each of the rooms, we will have a range of music including children's nursery rhymes and relaxing music for sleep times.

#### Preschool Toilet's

We have recently had a third toilet put into the ground floor toilet for the preschool children along with a fresh lick of paint.

#### Children's Fingers to Get Even Greener at Our New Nursery Allotment

Carousel Nursery now rents an allotment in Stamshaw which we have sourced for the children to visit and use, we aim to take the children to the allotment daily (providing the weather is good) and encourage the children to help plant flowers and grow vegetables which we will use back at nursery and send home too, this will help to develop their fine and gross motor skills, teach them about how we plant, being responsible and taking care of living things as well as giving them the skills and knowledge to

know where their food comes from and know that they can make a contribution to their daily lives and be a valued member of society.

### Digital Learning Journey's

We have invested in an additional two iPad's for the staff to use the Evidence for Learning App in the toddler and preschool groups and we have upgraded our subscription for the app on the iPad that now allows parents/carers to see your child's (no one else's) learning journey observations from home and you will also be able to add your own observations from home so you can share what your children have been learning and achieving at home.

We are waiting on the update on the app so you can too add information about your child at home. Please keep your eyes peeled for more information.

\*\*Please note the parental access will not go live until the week commencing 11th April 2016

### Staff Training

All staff at Carousel have completed e-learning this year on staff recruitment, the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, child neglect, equality and inclusion, special educational needs and disabilities, effective safeguarding practice, promoting positive behaviour and reflective practice in early years.

The staff have also attended the following training courses; good practice in school readiness, basic awareness in safeguarding, an in depth exploration of characteristics of learning and teaching, behaviour strategies, understanding new Ofsted, staff performance and through the eyes of a 2 year old.

### **Important things to remember**

#### Chicken Pox

We have had several cases of chicken pox recently so if your child has not yet had them then please keep an eye out for the symptoms. A reminder children can have chicken pox *more* than once, so if they have had it before they may potentially get it again. The exclusion period for chicken pox can differ in length but they can return to nursery after 5 days off and once ALL the spots have scabbed over.

#### Spare Clothes

All children need to have a bag packed with enough named, clean clothes (whether potty training or not) to last through the day (more if they are potty training) this can be kept on your child's peg but not in a plastic carrier bag. We still have some parents who have not provided this yet and your children naturally will become messy during their day eating, playing and exploring with us.

As we all know the weather is unpredictable, so please be prepared for all occasions, otherwise your child may miss out. Please think practically when dressing your child, its best to dress children in layers and we can take them off if it's warm enough. Please can all parents bring in a hat and sun cream to keep at nursery so that your child can take part in outside activities when it's sunny and hot.

Also if your child has been sent home in nursery clothes could you please return them. Thank you.

#### Kids Club and School Holidays

All parents/carers if your children attend the nursery all year round and you do not book holiday for your child by the given date for half term, they will be booked in and you will be charged normally. We do

require all holiday to be requested with 4 week's notice; otherwise you will be charged for your child's absence.

Children who attend term time only or for their funding are able to attend during the holidays at the normal chargeable rate, please ensure you book well in advance to avoid disappointment.

Don't forget we offer a Kids Club for children who are not registered with Carousel, offering childcare for children up to the age of 12 years old.

### Safety

Please can all parents/carers ensure the front door is shut firmly when leaving the nursery, before leaving the porch area, also ensure you are not letting anybody else in whether you know them or not parents can use finger prints or ring the door bell and qualified staff will let them in.

If you have not yet been registered for your finger print please see Mary, Michelle or Becky in the office.

### Facebook, Email

Please check your emails on a regular basis, this is our most effective way to communicate with you, we often send updates and important information, along with your child's report termly.

Can also ask all parents/carers to "like" our Facebook page, please visit to see important updates and news about the Nursery:

<https://www.facebook.com/CarouselNurserySchool>

If for any reason your email address changes can you please let us know either by emailing [carousel.hilsea@btinternet.com](mailto:carousel.hilsea@btinternet.com) from your new account stating your name and your child's name so we can update your registration form and contact details.

### **Upcoming Events and important dates for your diary**

#### 30 hours Pilot Funding Scheme

Portsmouth will be taking part in the pilot scheme of increasing the funded hours from 15 a week to 30 hours term time only; this is for Preschool age children.

We are not yet aware of who will be taking part in the pilot, but when the local authorities have released more information we will be sure to keep you updated.

The scheme will be rolled out nationwide for all eligible families in September 2017.

#### Stay and Play Sessions

Carousel Nursery School will be holding some more fantastic stay and play sessions in all age groups for you to attend. Spaces are limited and if needed, we will book some further dates in the near future.

The Preschool play and stay session dates are:

18/4/16 10am-11am

19/4/16 2pm-3pm

20/4/16 10am-11am

21/4/16 10am-11am

22/4/16 2pm-3pm

The Toddler play and stay session dates are:

26/4/16 10am-11am

28/4/16 10am-11am

The Babies play and stay session date is:

3/5/16 10am-11am

4/5/15 2pm-3pm

#### Half Term Dates 2016

Easter half term 28/3/16 - 8/4/16

Summer half term 30/5/16 - 3/6/16

Summer holidays 21/7/16 - 2/9/16

The Academic Year begins again September 5th 2016

#### Bank Holiday Closures 2016

Good Friday 25/3/16

Easter Monday 28/3/16

May Day 2/5/16

Spring Bank Holiday 30/5/16

Staff training day 31/5/16

Summer Bank Holiday 29/8/16

**Carousel Nursery hopes you all have a very nice Easter!**