

ASHRIDGE NEWS



From your Committee - September 2011

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 25th September - NCT Sale
Tuesday 27th September - Coffee at Ashridge
Thursday 29th September - Committee Meeting
Tuesday 7th October - Plant Sale
Monday 17th October - Task Force
Thursday 20th October - Three Frogs social

HALF TERM 24th - 28th October
Tuesday 25th October - Nursery Clean
Thursday 3rd November - Children's Photographer
Wednesday 9th November - Twilight Market
Monday 14th November - Task Force
Tuesday 15th November - Mrs Lipski's
Presentation on Schools Admissions

CHAIR CHAT

Welcome back all Ashridge parents after the summer holidays and a very warm welcome to our new parents who have joined us this term. We hope you can join us for coffee next week, or at the Three Frogs later this term. The end of last term was very busy with a trip to Odds Farm and visiting animals (pictures below), both of which are good examples of how your fundraising efforts are spent. We also had the Ofsted inspection; I have added a summary later in the newsletter.

Fundraising continued with the annual charity disco in July, a big thank you to all who made it on the night and for your continued support. Fundraising and parental donations so far this year have raised a staggering **£9,629!** I hope you will all give the committee your continued support with fundraising this year. They have already organised a few events for the calendar this term, including the Twilight Market, which is a firm favourite. If you wish to suggest any new ways to fundraise, please get in touch.

Thank you to the families who helped with the summer clean this year, but it needs many hands to make a difference. The annual clean is part of the maintenance of your facility - the committee have organised another date during the half term week and it would be good to have lots of helpers.

The committee have also begun exploring options to maintain and improve quality as we enter the first academic year of the council's new funding formula and the financial impact of the single point of entry to primary schools. If you are interested in helping us shape Ashridge Nursery for the future, please do get in touch.

Finally, Gregory has started school this term. As a result, I am personally not on site as frequently but your committee's details are displayed in the foyer and messages can be left with the staff if you wish to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Anne Tovey, Chairman

ODDS FARM

Some of our older children enjoyed a day trip to Odds Farm in the Summer. They had great fun feeding the animals, climbing on the tractor and watching the animal races.



*The children's photographer will be at the nursery on **Thursday 3rd November** to take pictures of our little darlings. Don't forget to make sure they are 'scrubbed and tubbed' and looking their best!*

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OWENS ANIMALS

Owens Animals paid a visit to the nursery in the Summer. The children loved the close-up experience of seeing and holding different animals, from snakes and lizards to an albino hedgehog!



NCT SALE

Sunday 25th September - St Crispins School

Ashridge Nursery is selling items at the NCT sale. Thank you to those parents who have kindly donated items. We hope to see you at the sale picking up some pre-Christmas bargains.

COFFEE TIME!

Tuesday 27th September - 8.45am and 12.30pm

Please join us for tea or coffee after drop-off at **8.45am** and **12.30pm**. Everyone welcome! Have a chat with a member of staff, the committee and other parents and carers about anything you'd like to know. We look forward to seeing you.



COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 29th September - 8pm in the nursery

If you want to have a *direct influence* on the way things are done at the Nursery, why not join the committee? We are involved in strategy, planning and fundraising for the charity and need parental volunteers and support to do this. Please come to our next meeting or the coffee morning on the 27th to find out more.

PLANT SALE

Friday 7th October

We will be holding a plant sale again this term. Order forms will come out through the nursery between 27th and 30th September. Please return your completed order form by **Friday 7th October** and orders will be delivered on **Tuesday 18th October**.



TASK FORCE NIGHTS

Monday 17th October and Monday 14th November



Please come and join us to help the staff get through those little extra tasks that need doing. Scissors normally

start snipping from **7.30pm**. Many hands make light work! Please contact Michele (Emma's mum) if you can help: micheleharrison7@gmail.com

THREE FROGS PUB TRIP

Thursday 20th October - 8pm onwards

Fancy a night out? Then please join us down the pub for a relaxed drink, chat and a chance to meet other parents, without having to keep an eye on the little ones!



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HALF TERM CLEAN

Tuesday 25th October

We had a couple of dates over the Summer where we asked for volunteers to help clean the nursery.



Sadly, attendance was very low. So we are asking again for help to clean the nursery during half term. Please come down and help from 10am-1pm or 6.30-9.30pm.

TWILIGHT MARKET

Wednesday 9th November

Our annual Twilight Market is happening again on 9th November from 7.30-9.30pm. There will be the chance to pick up some lovely gifts in time for Christmas from Sugar Mouse, Creative Crafts, Pampered Chef, to name but a few. Please mark it in your diaries and come along!



MRS LIPSKI'S PRESENTATION ON SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS

Tuesday 15th November - 7.30pm in the nursery

Last year the Nursery organised an information evening for parents regarding school intake. It was very well attended and the parents found it very informative. Mrs Lipski will be giving a presentation aimed at all parents of children who will be turning 4 during this academic year, and Mrs Young from Keep Hatch Primary School has once again been invited to attend. Please do come and listen to Mrs Lipski and other parents for valuable information and advice on the option of deferment and the starting of school.

OFSTED INSPECTION SUMMARY

We were inspected by Ofsted last term and the report is still available to read in full, online and at the nursery. Ofsted have rated the effectiveness of the early years provision as of GOOD quality (aspects of provision is strong), with Outstanding quality (aspect of provision is of exceptionally high quality) in 4 areas. *'Children have an exciting time in this effective and inclusive nursery. They are safe and their personal and academic needs are met well. The well-written learning journals show all children make generally good progress. There is a wealth of good quality resources inside and out although some opportunities are missed to further stimulate children's curiosity. The leadership and management is evaluative and effective in looking for areas to further develop showing good capacity to improve further.'*

This is a fantastic achievement for the staff, all of whom work very hard to achieve a consistently high standard of pre-school education for our children. Parental and committee support of the nursery and its staff will ensure the improvements suggested by Ofsted can be fulfilled.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Do you take your children to interesting and exciting places that other mums and dads may not know about? Perhaps you love the Pinewood Trains: www.pinewoodrailway.co.uk or you and the children had great fun glow-worm hunting at California Country Park in the Summer?

If you have any gems you'd like to share with others, please email me (Victoria - Alexander's mum): victoria@whennell.co.uk and I will publish them in the next newsletter. Christmas ideas welcome!!

OTHER WAYS TO FUNDRAISE

If you get the **Wokingham Times**, please don't forget to cut out the coupon on page 6 and bring it in to the nursery. Fingers crossed we'll win that £200!



If you shop online, please register with the **Giving Machine**: www.thegivingmachine.co.uk and nominate Ashridge Nursery as your chosen beneficiary. Then, if you go through the site every time you shop, Ashridge Nursery will receive a percentage from the company you've shopped with - and it won't cost you a penny! Everyone's a winner, as they say!

We can now accept direct donations through **Virgin Money Giving**. Please follow the link on our website: www.ashridgenursery.co.uk



Finally, if you are a UK Taxpayer and wish to give directly to the nursery, please complete your **Gift Aid form**. If you have mislaid it, please contact Sam Gunter: ashridgenursery@btinternet.com for a replacement.