

# ASHRIDGE NEWS

From your Committee - April 2013

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Dressing-up Day

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May - Spring Fayre

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Task Force

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Committee Meeting

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June - AGM

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June - Task Force

HALF TERM 27<sup>th</sup> May - 31<sup>st</sup> May

## CHAIR CHAT

Welcome back to the Summer term. A few sunnier days have meant the children can enjoy playing outside without the bitter cold of late!

In addition to preparations for the fayre and the plant sale, the committee were money-focused for end of the Spring term with the end of the financial year and planning the new budget. As always, Mrs Brown carried out an excellent job, which will be summarised at the AGM.

With potentially over 50 children starting at their Primary Schools in September, many of our current parents on the Management Committee will be stepping down. This will mean several vacancies, including Chair and other executive positions that *must* be filled if we are to continue the effective management of Ashridge Nursery. If parents with children continuing at the nursery have been considering joining and would like more information on what it involves, please contact Dale Green, myself or any member of the Committee via the nursery. Alternatively, with the AGM scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>, we are holding another open committee meeting for all parents on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Why not come along for a taster session?

Kind regards

Michele Harrison, Vice Chairperson

## TASK FORCE NIGHTS

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June



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 Minna (Olivia's mum) if you can help: [minna.harman@btinternet.com](mailto:minna.harman@btinternet.com)

## COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May - 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 on the 21<sup>st</sup> May to find out more.

## ASHRIDGE NURSERY PARENTS ASSOCIATION AGM

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June - 8pm in the nursery, with guest presentation from Mrs Lipski

All parents who have children attending Ashridge nursery are automatic members of the parents association. At the AGM we report on what has happened during the last year and what is planned for the forthcoming year, so it is a good opportunity to gain an insight into the running of the Nursery.

It is also at this meeting that **you** vote for the members of the Management Committee for the next year, 20 parents are required to be present for the meeting to proceed. Nominations for new committee members are currently being received. Please contact our secretary to apply: [janeta1roberts@gmail.com](mailto:janeta1roberts@gmail.com)

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## FAYRE UPDATE

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 11.30am-2.00pm



The Spring Fayre Committee are working very hard to ensure this year's fayre is as successful as in previous years. With just two weeks to go please can we ask for your help in the following areas:

- **Volunteers** - In order to make our fayre a success, we rely on volunteers offering to help out on the day. Please sign up to man a stall for an hour if you can. It's simple and great fun manning a stall supervising little ones hooking a duck or selecting a ticket from the tombola. We also desperately need volunteers to come forward as our BBQ chefs for the day - come on Dad's - you know you want to! ☺ If you haven't already, please could all families complete your volunteer forms and return them to nursery this week or sign up on the sheet now outside the nursery confirming your help as soon as possible. Without enough helpers we may not be able to run all the planned stalls, which would be a shame.
- **Donations** - Please keep those donations coming in. We are still happy to accept good quality used toys, games, puzzles & books and would really appreciate unwanted, unopened gifts and toiletries - all donations very gratefully received!
- **Dressing-up day** - There will be a dress-up day on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May**. Please bring a bottle as a donation (Alcohol, soft drinks, perfume etc. all welcome)
- **Jam jars, Raffle Tickets & Bunting** - If you haven't already; then please do these as per the instructions on your fayre pack and then return to the nursery.
- **Cake plates** - These will come out on the week leading upto the fayre and we ask that everyone fills them with cakes, biscuits etc. Please list the ingredients as per the instructions and then return them to the nursery either on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> or the morning of the fayre.

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## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We recently held our budget meeting and reviewed end of year accounts. Throughout last year, donations of unwanted items that were either sold on eBay/ facebook, at car boot sales, as happy bag collections or at the NCT sales, raised over £3000 - this is amazing and we'd like to thanks parents for keeping those donations coming in ☺

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## DAYS OUT AND PLACES TO GO...

Do you take your children to interesting and exciting places that other mums and dads may not know about? It's always good to be able to try somewhere new! Here are a few ideas:

- For anyone who missed the BCA lambing day weekend, then its not too late to see some being born as Amners Farm, [www.amnersfarm.co.uk](http://www.amnersfarm.co.uk), are holding their annual event over this bank holiday weekend. See the website for more details.
- For those who love the Pinewood Trains, [www.pinewoodrailway.co.uk](http://www.pinewoodrailway.co.uk), the new season has started, running on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month from now until October. You can also ride the trains at **Jocks Lane Park** in Bracknell. See [www.bracknellrailwaysociety.co.uk](http://www.bracknellrailwaysociety.co.uk) for dates and times.
- **Open Farm Sunday** will be happening again on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2013. And it's free! Many Ashridge families visited a local farm last year and all had a thoroughly good time. Please visit [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org) to find your farm of choice.
- For hands-on science fun, try **The Look Out** opposite Coral Reef swimming pool, or if you fancy going a little further afield, how about **In-tech Science Centre and Planetarium** in Winchester?

If you have any ideas of other places you'd like to share, please email me [andi\\_thomasuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andi_thomasuk@yahoo.co.uk) and I will publish them in the next newsletter.

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## NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUIRED!

Can you spare a couple of hours to produce the nursery newsletter? My daughters, Keira & Chloe, will be going to primary school in September so I am looking for someone to take over the newsletter from the beginning of the Autumn term. The aim is to produce two newsletters per term, along with an occasional extra one; for example, in the run-up to the Spring Fayre. It is pretty straight-forward, requires a bit of liaison with either the Chairman or Secretary, and also Mrs Gunter or Mrs Lipski for dates of important and upcoming events, along with a few words on each subject. Please contact me if you are interested: [andi\\_thomasuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andi_thomasuk@yahoo.co.uk) - I am more than happy to go through everything and answer any questions you may have.

We are now accepting direct donations through **Virgin Money Giving**.

Please follow the link on our website:

[www.ashridgenursery.co.uk](http://www.ashridgenursery.co.uk)



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 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](mailto:ashridgenursery@btinternet.com) for a replacement.

Finally, if you shop online, please register with **The Giving Machine** and nominate Ashridge as your beneficiary. It won't cost you a penny and it is such an easy way to raise funds for the nursery:

[www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk)

