

Spring 2008

**Hi** and apologies because it has been a long time since the last newsletter! Over the last few weeks it has been very busy with lots of new children and families to settle in. It has been great getting to know you all and you are very welcome to Hopscotch. We hope your children enjoy their time with us.

As lots of new faces suggests Hopscotch is going very well with numbers growing steadily and all the children making new friends and learning new things together. We are very pleased to report no staff changes as we continue to develop as an effective team. Ruth is currently working hard to gain her NVQ level 3 qualification which will enable her to formally take on the role of Deputy Manager – expect a celebration once this is completed!

We are also requesting further minor improvements to the hall building and are looking at ways to get outdoors on a more regular basis. Please speak to Lorraine if you have any ideas or suggestions.

## Health and safety

We have been reviewing our policies recently and have had a look through the accident book. As a result we have become aware that long hair can be a risk in some activities. If your child has long hair please make sure it is tied up. We are also keeping some bobbles at Hopscotch and we may put your child's hair up for some activities.

## Themes

So far this term we have been learning about winter. We also enjoyed learning about the winter celebrations of Chinese New Year and Pancake Day.

This half term we are going to be thinking about how we keep our bodies healthy. We will do some cooking and learn about foods that give us energy. We will also celebrate World Book Day and notice the changes as spring begins.

At home perhaps you'd like to draw or find a picture of your favourite food. Please bring this to Hopscotch.

## Term dates 2008

### Spring term

We close for Easter on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

### Summer Term

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

### Half term

Hopscotch will be closed on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May and for half term from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May inclusive.

## Diary dates

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

#### World Book Day

Come to Hopscotch dressed as a favourite book character.

### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Val the photographer is coming along to Hopscotch.

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June

#### Riverside Festival

We are planning on having a stand with children's activities. If you have any ideas or may be available to help out, even if only for a short time, please speak to Lorraine.

More details on all the above to follow.

## On the web

Don't forget you can download our policy documents and other information on our website, [www.hopscotchplaygroup.com](http://www.hopscotchplaygroup.com)

We are also listed on [www.netmums.com](http://www.netmums.com). It has some useful local information and, if you are registered, you can add a comment to our entry. Thanks to those of you who already have.

Also [www.le34u.co.uk](http://www.le34u.co.uk) has some helpful local information and again we are featured this month.

## Autumn 2008 & beyond

It may seem premature to be thinking about the next year but our planning has now started. At the end of this term we will be asking you to indicate the number of spaces you may wish to book from September. There is likely to be a cost increase per session. If you know of others who may be interested in coming to Hopscotch, please let Lorraine know.

There is currently a review of the Nursery Education Grant. All the indications are that this support for parents will remain.

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