

Summer 2008

**Hi** and welcome to the summer newsletter. The first bit of news is that Popi is returning to Greece soon and is leaving Hopscotch on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July. We of course wish her well for the future but are very sad to see her go as she is a valued and hard working member of the team who has contributed so much over the 18 months she has been with us.

Also as the end of term approaches we are preparing to say good-bye to a number of children moving on to school. This is always sad too but it is good to see them grow and progress as they are ready to make the next step.

But as we say good-bye it is also time to say hello to new challenges, new people and a new curriculum. September sees the introduction of the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) document, more details later, and of course we are looking to recruit a new member of staff. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining us, please speak to Lorraine by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July, who will be pleased to pass on details and the relevant forms.

Last half term we had great fun learning about the jobs people do with some very interesting visitors. A doctor, carpenter and hairdresser all popped in to see us.

The children also thoroughly enjoyed visiting 'RPL carburettors'. They had put in a lot of effort getting everything ready for us. Thank you to Chris, Bob and all our visitors.



## Outdoor play space



One of the requirements of the EYFS, mentioned above, is that children have greater access to outdoor play opportunities. We are currently looking at ways we could provide this. We do have some possibilities and have been trying a few out but one of the challenges is funding any improvements. If anyone has any ideas for grants Lorraine would love to hear from you!

## Diary dates

We close for the summer holidays on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July and re-open on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August.

Half-term is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October inclusive.

We close for the Christmas holiday on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December and re-open on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

Photos from World Book Day, 6<sup>th</sup> March 20



## Fees

Fees will remain at £7 for the rest of this term. However with effect from Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008 fees will increase to £7.50 per session. This is the first increase since Hopscotch started in 2006. It reflects our desire to pay staff a fair wage and enable the development of the playgroup.

We accept payments by cash, cheque and bank transfer. May we remind you that fees are due for all sessions your child is booked in for and for which we are open.

Thank you.

## Photos

One or two people have expressed an interest in buying copies of photographs and some of the albums or 'books' we make at Hopscotch. However, this is a change to the way we agreed to use photographs as some of the books have children's names in them and individuals could be identified. If you have concerns about the photos being distributed in this way or if you may be interested in the idea, please speak to Lorraine.

## Forward thinking

The Board and workers at Hopscotch are really pleased with how the playgroup has developed in its first two years. We are now already 83% full for the new academic year. We are committed to providing a safe, fun and friendly learning environment. We now want to consider ways to further improve and explore offering more sessions with different options. To help with forward planning for the next few years, the Board are meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. Any ideas you have, please pass them to Lorraine or Ruth.

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