

TRINITY COURT – NEWSLETTER, AUTUMN 2012

Few of our parental cohort are unfortunate enough to recall the days when the termly appearance of our Newsletter was as unavoidable as it was disappointing. The start of the new academic year seems an appropriate point to try and re-adopt the habit of jotting a termly newsletter to keep you in touch with what we've been up to. You may rest assured that any ill-founded excitement will have worn off about half way down the second page!

TC Tigers

We're pleased to say that forward bookings for our TC Tigers extend well into 2014. Indeed, two mornings are half way to being fully subscribed in 15 months' time; considering our Rainbow Room children are only 2 years old this is quite remarkable!



We've had an unprecedented number of new starters to "settle in" this term. Despite our best efforts to complete some inductions during the Summer vacation we couldn't avoid a very busy schedule of visits at the start of the term. Sincere thanks to those of you who have been so patient during the induction process and congratulations to the many children who have settled so well.

Thank you also for your kind recommendations that have resulted in our sessions being so well attended!

TC Club

As the Autumn Term's mid-point accelerates towards us, TC Club is gearing up for an action packed Half Term Vacation. We have lots of activities planned from draping dreadful decorations around Trinity Court to creating creepy cookies. Our October half term party will not be for the faint hearted and takes place on Wednesday 31st October. If you would like to book sessions on Party Day (or on any other day next week) please let a member of our staff know.



TC Club's after school sessions are busier than ever and members of our staff team often have reasonably large groups to collect from schools. Please remember to let us know if your child(ren) will not need collecting from primary school. Other children in the group are disadvantaged while search parties are sent out and it is distressing for staff members who are required to hunt for what they believe to be "missing children".

Nursery School



The nights are dark, Trinity Court's plants are becoming increasingly moribund and a damp chill is penetrating our every joint. It almost goes without saying: this term our Nursery School topic is ~~Summer~~ Autumn. If your children are able to contribute pockets full of withered, slug ridden leaves, mouldy conkers or hibernating hedgehogs we will, of course, be most grateful!

Our nursery school sessions are almost fully subscribed for the Summer ahead and, for the first time ever, we are giving very serious consideration to expanding our capacity.

From previous experience, parents often consider increasing attendance in readiness for primary school. If you are thinking about booking additional sessions please let us know sooner rather than later. That will assist with your forward planning and also help guide our decision about expanding the group.

Grant Funding

Nursery Education Funding for 3 and 4 year old children is well established and 15 hours per week of free sessions are available regardless of income or address. There is limited funding now available for some 2 year old children. Availability of these "Think 2" places is determined by postcode and family income and, as a rule of thumb, is judged by the free school meal criteria.

We hope funding for 2 year olds will become available to an increasingly large number of families in the future. The current economic squeeze means this will likely be a slow process and we will, of course, let you know any significant developments as they arise.

Parking



The busy sessions mentioned above do, unfortunately, lead to a car park that is busier than usual for the time of the year. Our car park is small and inevitably becomes congested on occasions. Please be considerate, parking as close as possible to other vehicles and at right angles to the main road. If you need to obstruct others please wait with your vehicle until a space becomes available. This helps traffic flow by releasing spaces more quickly.

It is nice to see friendships developing amongst parents and children alike but if you could keep social meetings on the car park as short as possible that would be appreciated!

Our Staff Team

New Members

We've been delighted to welcome two new team members to Trinity Court this term.

- Miss Laura Thursfield first became known to us while on student placement during her Early Years & Childcare course at Newcastle College. She subsequently passed her qualification with flying colours and we've been lucky to have her join our team as a Junior Nursery Nurse.
- Miss Lisa Sanzeri is in the final year of her Early Years & Childcare course at Leek College. She's working for us on Thursdays (and during some of the school vacations) while completing her studies.

New Opportunities

After a struggle, in September 2011 we managed to persuade Mrs Shadforth to leave the building for a couple of hours a day. She reduced her working hours and remained in a part-time role throughout last year. Our nursery school sessions have become steadily busier during the past 12 months in spite (not because!) of her reduced input and, as the year progresses, there will be more than half a job to be filled to meet increased demand.

During the next few weeks we will begin recruiting a practitioner with Early Years Professional Status to join our team. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in the role we'd be grateful if you put them in touch with us.

Students

We offer student placements to members of local colleges and currently have a first year student from Leek College attending for work experience. We will have high school students joining us for short placements during the New Year.

Morrisons Vouchers



Many thanks for collecting Morrisons "Let's Grow" Vouchers for us. We've had an excellent response and have already accumulated over 1300 vouchers. In the Spring we set aside some areas of Trinity Court's garden for the children to and we were pleased to achieve some half-hearted carrots and puny potatoes at the end of such a disappointing Summer! Vouchers are being issued until 28th October. We have until 30th November to place our order so please remember to hand them to us by then.



We look forward to being able to acquire more gardening resources with the vouchers you have collected and will keep you posted.

Summer Fair

Your generous support of our Summer Fair was greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks for the many home made cakes, bottles, toys and bric-a-brac that helped make the event so successful. This was the second year we have held a Summer Fair and the response was excellent. We raised over £300 towards purchasing new resources for the children and we're still in the process of shopping!



The main benefit so far has been the addition of a new kitchen unit to the Nursery School's "Home Corner". This flat-packed puzzle challenged Miss Simcock's DIY skills for over 3 weeks (although we probably should be fair and acknowledge that she was abroad on holiday for 2½ of those)! We will be purchasing further resources soon and will let you know what we acquire.

Nurturing Health Award (Healthy Eating)

During the Summer we were pleased to achieve a Bronze Award in the Nurturing Health Award scheme. This scheme promotes healthy eating by creating varied & balanced menus which meet the nutritional needs of children under 5 years of age.

We also used the opportunity to review TC Club's snack menus and included sandwiches, fruit and vegetables for all children for their tea time snack. The children seem to have appreciated the revision and we hope they have given positive feedback to you. If you have any suggestions or comments please let us know!

On several occasions in the past we've considered producing "Lunchbox Ideas" fliers to help inspire your creation of healthy, balanced and tasty lunchboxes. If that plan comes to fruition we may include any leaflets with lunch boxes on their return journeys or may make them available for collection in the entrance. We'd welcome any ideas that we could include so please make contact if you have suggestions to share.

With the exception of special occasions (our Half Term Holiday Party being one of them!) we try to discourage the eating of sweets at Trinity Court. We know that sweet treats are often sent with children to celebrate birthdays, etc. and we have no intention of opposing that tradition. We normally circumvent the potential problem by sending sweet treats home with children and allowing you to make decisions about whether / when they are consumed.

Thank yous

Finally, we would like to thank you all for your continued support and recommendations that have helped make 2012 such a positive year for Trinity Court and our children.

Diary Dates

Mon 29 October 2012	Half Term Vacation (1 week)
Mon 5 November	St Luke's Primary CLOSED (Inset Day)
Fri 21 December	Last day of Autumn term
Mon 24 December	Christmas vacation begins (TC Club)
Tue 25 December	Christmas Day (Establishment Closed)
Wed 26 December	Boxing Day (Establishment Closed)
Tue 1 January 2013	New Year's Day (Establishment Closed)
Mon 7 January 2013	Spring term commences (nursery school)

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nursery@trinitycourt.co.uk

This newsletter is also available at  www.trinitycourt.co.uk