



[Best Friends Childcare Centre Limited](#)

[Newsletter - spring and summer 2010](#)

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 - May - August 2010

To all our Parents and Children

Hello & Welcome from Gemma Jones & All the Team at Best Friends

We would all like to extend a warm welcome to all the new children and parents who have joined the nursery since our last edition.

1. Introduction. This Newsletter will be the main form of communication from all of us at Best Friends, so please read through it, we welcome feed back from you as we do like to work in partnership with our parents.

2. Introducing your team -

Gemma Jones - Proprietor & Managing Director

Hilda McGrath - Nursery Manager

Gemma Brown - Nursery Practitioner - Head of Room

Emma Blanchard - Nursery Practitioner - Over 2's

Kerry Hickson - Assistant Nursery Practitioner - Maternity Leave

Jenna Martin - Assistant nursery practitioner - Over 2's

David Farrer - Assistant Nursery Practitioner - Baby room

Darren Pegg - Nursery Chef

3. Information for Parents -

This section will deal with the day-to-day issues of the nursery and the procedures that have to be followed in order to satisfy not only Ofsted, but to ensure the safety and comfort of your child/children at all times.

Reception Area Bags

Please could we take all bags home at the end of your Child's weekly session to make sure everything is in there for the following week?

We would be grateful if you could please have a minimum of two changes of clothes in your child's bags. This is in case they have an accident and get messy with the daily activities that we do!

We have put a list together of what needs to be in your child/children's bag:

- 2 spare changes of clothes (unless your child is potty training then can we have 6 please)
- Hats, sun creams
- Calpol/nurofen
- Teething gels
- Comforts

Could you check your Childs bags regularly please, as we have noticed that some of the children's spare clothes are too small for them?

Items of clothing have gone missing from time to time, so we strongly recommend that all clothes brought to the nursery are labelled with your Childs name.

Nursery Gate

Could I please remind you all to make sure as you enter and leave the nursery that the gate is closed behind you. On a number of occasions the gate has been left open and children have been running into the car park. We would appreciate you taking an extra couple of minutes to make sure the gate is closed for the safety of the children entering and leaving the nursery. I do appreciate this is a very busy time. I know you will all share our up most concern over this.

4. Operational Issues -

Alternative arrangements

Although Best Friends Childcare Centre staff maybe a first point of call, for a baby sitting service outside of working hours.

We respectfully request you speak with a Member of Management (Gemma Jones or Hilda McGrath) before incurring staff to extend there working hours. This is for the safety of the staff and the children they are being asked to care for.

This also includes any parties or additional services from the staff at weekends. (Curriculum planning, outings, lessons). I hope you understand that it is important to me that all of my staff are maintaining the nursery guidelines and procedures when carrying out alternative arrangements on your behalf.

Testimonials

We are now into our 5th year of business and were wondering if any of you would like to do a testimonial for us. For the last 4 years we have been receiving these from you and they have been lovely to receive and keep on our files. We would also like to place a few of them onto our website this year!!

Activities and Outings January - April 2010

Chinese New Year - The children made cards and dressed up in costumes and created their own role play in restaurants, they even trying to use chop sticks.

Mother's day activities - Some mummy's came into the nursery and lead the focus activities, for the children to do, from reading stories to making play dough whilst having fun.

St Patrick's day- The staff and children dressed up in green for the day.

Easter Party- the children had a lovely Easter party and thank you to all the parents that took part and made Easter bonnets for their children, the children enjoyed the party games as well as getting certificates for their Easter bonnets.

Maths Magic month- The children have been encouraged throughout the month of April and May with their numbers, patterns and size's. The staff have been encouraging them with number activities, about colours, sizes, walks looking for shapes, balancing object for heavy and light, looking at who is tallest and smallest and having team games. The parents have had their own competition, to guess the number of sweets in the jar, guess the weight of the fruit and to guess what is teddy's favourite number. The winner of this will be on the 1st June.

St George's day- All staff and children dressed in white or red for the day.

Sun hats and sun cream

We take the health and safety of our children very seriously...therefore please can we ask that you provide each of your childre with a suitable sun hat and sun protection cream/spray/lotion (at least factor 20+ is recommended even in this British climate) int the nursery clearly labelled. You must provide these items as we are unable to apply any lotions/sprays etc in case of allergi reaction or skin conditions. When bringing the sun creams into the nursery, can the sun cream be either new or within date (no more than 1 year old) - as the effectiveness of sun protection cream etc reduces to an unsafe level after 1 year. These items ma be kept in the children's baskets during the warm/hot weather.

5th Birthday Party

We had a fabulous turn out of current, new and present families and children. It was lovely to see so many of you, enjoying an celebrating this wonderful milestone. I hope you all will agree that it was a fantastic event for us all to get to know one another little more. As well as you getting to know other parents within the nursery. We hope you enjoyed the party games just as much a the children did!! We look forward to seeing you all again at the next event.

Hairdressing

Samantha will be doing the hairdressing for the children on Friday's this term. The dates and times she will be in are in the dates for your diary section. If you would like your child's hair to be cut by Samantha and your child does not attend nursery on a Friday you can bring them in to have their hair cut only. Samantha Charges £5.00 per Childs hair cut. Could you please pay in advance to a member of staff or on the day to Samantha?

Fundraising

We would like to thank you all for your support during the fundraising course throughout the winter 2010 so far we have raised:

Haiti appeal January 2010: we raised £75.00 thank you so much for your kind and continual donations.

Maths is Magic Month April and May 2010 - Thank you for all your donations in guessing the teddies favourite number, how many sweets are in the jar and the weight of the fruit. All money that is being raised will be going to banardo's for the children with no speech.

New arrivals

We would like to take this opportunity in congratulating the following on their new arrivals:

Kate and Ian On the arrival of Dexter

Clare and David on the arrival of Emily

Louisa and Anthony on the arrival of Honour

Birthdays

We do celebrate every child's birthday even if they are not present on their actual special day. We can make birthday cakes if required (please give us suitable notice!) and we will focus on a healthy option wherever possible. We have candles in the nursery for these occasions and will make your child feel very special on their day. We are sorry but **no shop-bought cakes may be brought in for these occasions as they may contain ingredients that cause allergic reactions.**

Children who will be celebrating their birthdays since the last issue:

Jessica	22 nd May	3 rd
Dylan	4 th June	2 nd
Mia	5 th June	3 rd
Olivia mae	8 th June	2 nd
Eva	17 th June	1 st
Ava	17 th June	2 nd
Giselle	16 th July	3 rd
Charlie	19 th August	1 st

Staff - yes, we even celebrate staff birthdays too

Hilda	28 th May	21 +
Gemma	24 th August	21 +
Darren	27 th August	21+

5. Training & Qualifications

We see this area as vitally important for our staff and it will have much benefit for you and your children.

Both Management and staff are about to go on or have been on a variety of courses since our last issue:

Gemma Jones - Foundation degree in early years studies - 2/3 years

Gemma Jones - SENCO training - May and June 2010

Hilda McGrath - SENCO training - June 2010

Gemma Jones - Child Protection refresher -April, May and June 2010

Hilda McGrath - Child Protection refresher - April, May and June 2010

David Farrer - Pre-school - Diploma in Childcare - 1 / 2 years

Darren Pegg - Pre-school - Diploma in Childcare - 1 / 2 years

Gemma Brown - Child protection refresher - April and May 2010

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for the outstanding hard work and achievements in gaining more knowledge by attending these courses out of hours, which have further aided their skills in the care and development of our children.

6. Dates for your diary

23rd April St George's day - Wear Red or White to Nursery.

3rd May - May Day

14th May - Hairdressing

31st May - May Bank holiday

1st June - Winners announced for Maths is Magic Month games

10th June - Parents evening 6:45-8:30pm - Please speak to your key worker to allocate a time

18th June - Daddy's and Grandad's coffee morning - 9-11

20th June - Fathers day.

21st June - Photos Individual and Group.

2nd July - Hairdressing

26th -30th July - Children's Sports week.

16th - 20th August - Children's leaving party.

3rd September - Hairdressing