



Merry Christmas



December 2009  
Buttsbury  
Newsletter

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#### Pre school Christmas Carols



We have a great afternoon planned for all Dizzy Ducks families. We are holding our first Christmas Carol Concert Evening. The event is taking place on Monday 14th December at 6pm at the nursery. We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies while enjoying the childrens singing. I can promise that they have all been working really

## Dizzy Ducks Day Nursery Newsletter

Dear Sian,

The nursery is now buzzing with all the Christmas excitement from the staff and children. We have some great activities planned for December including Pre School Christmas Carol event, Christmas Parties , Christmas dinner with all the trimmings plus lots more..... More information will be displayed in the lobby. If you are coming to our Christmas events, please make sure that you inform the nursery manager so that we have a good idea of numbers for catering!

The Christmas events offer a great opportunity for parents, children and staff to get together and enjoy the party season! We sincerely hope that you are able to attend to see your little ones in their concert! Please be aware that if your child is not due to attend nursery on the party day, you are welcome to either book them in for an extra session, or come along with them.

### Road Safety Week

During November, we had our road safety week where the children learnt how to look, listen and cross roads safely. This was a nationwide awareness week on the road safety. Essex County Council supplied us with leaflets and posters to help us fully explain to the children road safety. We also took the children out in our Walkodiles and Turtle Bus to show them a zebra crossing, how to press the button at traffic lights and wait for the green man before crossing .



Please continue this theme at home with your children by talking to them about road safety and remembering to take your time to explain safety measures when you are out and about! The preschool staff can also recommend good books from the library if you are keen to carry on talking about this theme at home.

hard towards this event and are really excited about their parents watching them! Hope you can come!

[Please forward to friends, grandparents and anyone else who may find the information interesting!](#)



Forward this email to a Friend

## Winter is here!

Now the weather is turning colder, please can you remember to pack a **labelled** hat, scarf, gloves and wellie boots for your child. The children love playing out in all weathers but we want them wrapped up warm and cosy.



We have now reverted to our winter menu! This has a lot more hotpots, casseroles and roast dinners on it as well as homemade soups and puddings. Our chef Jane is fantastic and makes all the food from scratch. There is no room for processed food at Dizzy Ducks! The weekly menu will be on show on the wall outside the kitchen. Do take a look!



## Tax Free Childcare Vouchers

Childcare Vouchers have been in the press recently as the Government revealed plans to scrap them in 2015. However, this has no immediate impact on families using them and we actively encourage parents to make use of the Childcare Voucher scheme. EVERYONE is entitled to Child Vouchers regardless of income. If your company does not currently offer this scheme, we are able to provide information for them to register. This employee benefit can save a working couple nearly £1,800 per year, so it is really worth doing. If you would like any further information, please speak to Claire, our Nursery Administrator.

## "As and When Days"

Our "As and When Days " are working brilliantly for parents and children. The children especially love being in nursery this time of year as the nursery looks like Santa's Grotto and so many exciting activities are taking place. Plus it gives the children extra time to practice their Christmas Carols.



**See the coupon below which is an early Christmas gift! This entitles you to 25% off an extra afternoon session in December for your child.**

Need a day to yourself to do the Christmas shopping...? Think your little one would prefer a day full of fun and games to a day in the buggy at Bluewater...?! Just call and speak to the Nursery Manager.

## Safety is Paramount

Please make sure that you close and lock BOTH of the gates where entering and leaving the nursery.



Please do not let anyone into the building that you do not know. If you are leaving and there is someone at the door that you do not recognise, please do not let them in, but come and find a member of staff who will positively identify the visitor. We understand that this is often time consuming for you, but are sure that you agree that your childrens safety is the most important thing in the world! Also, if someone other than mum or dad is collecting and it is not usual practise for this to happen, please don't

forget to tell someone! We will not release a child to anyone that we do not recognise.

**PARKING:** Please DO NOT park directly outside the nursery on Perry Street. It is a condition of our lease with the school that our parents park in the Church car park, and while I understand that parking outside the nursery may save you a couple of minutes, we are the ones that have to deal with the complaints from neighbours! Please, please, please support us in this and park in the church grounds when dropping off and collecting.

## Parental Questionnaires

You should have received a questionnaire with your December invoice. We always welcome feedback on the nursery and any constructive criticism is positively encouraged in order that we can continually evaluate ourselves. Please take the time to complete these forms which give specific feedback on a number of issues. We do however, welcome your comments all the time either via me

([jackie.lavelle@dizzyducks.co.uk](mailto:jackie.lavelle@dizzyducks.co.uk)) or via Sian ([sian.nisbett@dizzyducks.co.uk](mailto:sian.nisbett@dizzyducks.co.uk)) Please do return these to us as soon as possible so we can find out what we have done well and highlight those areas that we can improve to continue to meet your expectations.



## Payment Policy

Despite a very clear payment policy, we still have a number of parents who remit late each month. You will appreciate that any dip in our cashflow affects our ability to provide top quality resources for your children and is also costly to administrate and reconcile.

We are happy to accept all Childcare Vouchers as we are aware that they save you money, but we request that they are credited to our account by 1st of the month IN ADVANCE. Any vouchers which come into our account after this date will be credited to the following months invoice, and a late payment fee will be applied to the account.

From January 2010 we will be offering a further way to pay. We will be able to accept **DEBIT & CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS** both in person and over the telephone using Barclays PDQ Chip & Pin Machines.

In addition to Card payments, we offer a **Standing Order** facility, a **Direct Debit** facility as well as offering payment by **Direct Transfer** or **Cheque** or **Cash**. We believe that by offering this many ways to pay, there is no reason for payment to be in our account late.

**From January, we will be putting a late payment charge on all late accounts as per our Terms & Conditions Document.**

If your payment usually credits our account after the 1st month, please amend your standing order. You can also get a Direct Debit form from the



office. If your childcare vouchers are non-amendable and you wish to speak to Claire about bringing your account into credit to avoid late payment charges, please contact her via email [claire.hunt@dizzyducks.co.uk](mailto:claire.hunt@dizzyducks.co.uk). Thanks for your understanding!

## Children in Need Day

We had a brilliant day for Children in Need. The children and staff all came to nursery in their pyjamas and slippers. The children made cakes and iced biscuits. Preschoolers cake stall was well received by parents and they did really well selling their biscuits in the evening. A good effort from everyone! For some of the babies, the efforts proved too much and they had to have a snooze after their icing and baking!



## December Events - Dates for your Diary!



**First Week December**- Nursery turns into Santa's Grotto!

### **Christmas Postman**

- Please place all Christmas cards in our postbox in the hallway. Our Dizzy Ducks postman will deliver the cards

**Friday 4th December** - Christmas Tree Dressing Party!

**Monday 14th December at 6pm** - Carol Concert

**Thursday 17th December** - Pre-School Christmas Party

**Friday 18th December** - **Pre School** trip to Jack & the Beanstalk at the Towngate theatre for those who have booked & paid.

**Tuesday 22nd December** - All children & staff will be served a lovely traditional Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings to enjoy together over lunchtime.

Please see further details of the above exciting events outside your child's room or speak to their keyperson.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Dizzy Ducks families a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy this magical time of the year!

**Sincerely,**

Jackie Lavelle - Nursery Manager

**Dizzy Ducks Day Nursery**

**Save  
25%**

Offer for extra afternoon sessions in December 2009 only. Offer available to current registered children and applies to sessions booked over and above usual regular booking pattern. Not applicable to sessions already booked.

Subject to session availability. Call now to reserve your extra afternoon!

**Offer Expires: December 31st 2009**