

Sydenham Road Under Fives Newsletter



Sydenham Road
Under Fives

Registered Charity Number: 1045367

May 2010

Message from chair

Our main news from the last few months was the surprise visit from Ofsted to the Playgroup. The staff and children all coped brilliantly and we received a really positive report. You can read more about it below.

As we've all been enjoying the recent sunny weather, Toddlers has been a bit quiet. We rely on your continued support to keep the sessions running, so please don't forget us completely when the sun comes out – our great team of Toddler Leaders will still be there to welcome you.

Finally, I'd like to urge as many of you as possible to come to our Ladies' Indulgence Evening. It's great fun and a brilliant opportunity to talk to other Mums without the children interrupting! You can enjoy a drink, a slice of pizza from A capella, and a home-made cake as well as having your nails done. I hope to see you there...

Officially Good!

In early March the SRUF playgroup were subject to an unannounced Ofsted inspection. Despite the surprise nature of the visit which took place over 2 days, staff rallied round and naturally, dealt really well with being under observation, the inspection and the questions.

The overall rating was **good** (as it was last time) however the inspector did say that the Ofsted standards had risen and to obtain the same rating overall actually reflects an improvement in the quality of childcare. Some highlights below:

'The pre-school offers an inclusive environment where children settle to be secure and happy. Well developed knowledge of children's individual needs ensures that the caring and enthusiastic staff successfully promote most aspects of children's welfare and learning.'

'There is a strong staff team who communicate well together and are clear about their roles and responsibilities within the group.'

'Parents are proud of the group and speak well of the high quality of care their children receive. They feel well involved in the children's learning...'

'Consideration of each child as a special person, and frequent praise during play and daily routines, effectively promote children's self-esteem and give value to their achievements. As a result, children are well motivated and behaved.'

The inspector also commented on the importance of the strong support offered by the committee.

The full report is available on the Ofsted website at: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Fundraising

The Table top sale which took place on Saturday 13th March raised nearly **£400.00** for SRUFs. Thank you to all those who supported the event.

The next fund raising event for SRUF is the '**Ladies Indulgence evening**' which is due to take place on **THURSDAY 13TH MAY** at Hillcrest school from 7.30-10.30pm. Tickets are £4.00 in advance and £4.50 on the door and the price includes a complimentary glass of wine. Why not take the opportunity to pamper yourself and have a bit of well-deserved 'me time' whilst supporting a good cause? In addition to some great treatments to choose from, there will be stalls selling lingerie, jewellery, cards and toiletries.

Tickets are available from playgroup, toddlers and 'Jack and Jill' on the Wells Road.

A photographer has been booked for **WEDNESDAY 19TH MAY**. See posters for more details.

Thank you and Farewell

We're sad to say goodbye to toddler leader Mel who has decided not to return after her maternity leave. We thank her for her help, wish her all the best and hope to see her as a regular visitor to toddlers.

Committee Vacancy

The position of **Staff Liaison Officer** on the committee still remains vacant. If you are interested in this role and would like to find out more information please speak to any committee member. We really value your help and parental involvement is one of the strengths of SRUF.

This role involves meeting with Toddler and Playgroup staff to discuss any staff issues and then reporting back to the committee at the monthly meetings. You will also be involved in staff recruitment.

No experience necessary as support will be given.

If you are interested in this role or would like further information, please contact: srufbs4@yahoo.co.uk or phone Jackie Freeman on **0117 977 3603**

Current toddler leaders

Monday – Louise Cox

Tuesday and Wednesday – Rachel Whitwell

Thursday – temporarily vacant (job application deadline May 7th) – covered by committee members or other toddler leaders

Friday – Alison Oatway

Not so hot!

Following a question in our comments book about why the tea and coffee that is served at toddler sessions is never very hot, we would like to point out that unfortunately there is an underlying health and safety issue involved. If a drink accidentally gets spilled on a child a very hot drink would cause a lot more damage. So sorry but the drinks can't be piping hot.

Jolly Babies and Music with Mummy

Hannah has returned from maternity leave to run her lively music sessions at the Star & Dove. There are a few places left so if you are interested in joining in you can **contact Hannah on 0117 377 8167**.

www.musicwithmummybristol.co.uk

Toddlers Mural and New sign

You may have noticed some changes outside playgroup and toddlers recently. We have some eye-catching new signs **thanks to Nick at Workbrands Ltd.** for designing and producing the signs at no charge to SRUF. Also the playgroup staff and some of the children have been helping **David Bowers** with the creation of a beautiful mural at the top of the steps leading down to toddlers (see photo right).



Dates for your diary

May

- Thursday 13th - Ladies Indulgence Evening
- Wednesday 19th – Photographer at Playgroup and toddlers. All playgroup children welcome at 9.15am for a year group photo
- Friday 28th - Last day term 5

June

- Monday 7th – Term 6 begins
- Thursday 24th – In service day (follow up). Playgroup shut. Toddlers to stay open.
- Friday 25th – Cake sale at Hillcrest School
- Wednesday 30th – Sports day and teddy bears picnic (Victoria Park) for playgroup and toddlers.

Thanks to the nice people at **A Cappella café and pizzeria** on the Wells Road for once again sponsoring this edition of the newsletter.