

Hillside Pre-School

Hillside Free Church Hall, Hillside Road, Chorleywood WD3 5AS 01923 284878

www.hillsidepreschool.co.uk



Committee Newsletter

19th April 2010

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Hillside after what we hope was a fun filled Easter Break! The children may have been on holiday but work at Hillside has certainly not stopped! The place has been given a new lease of life with fresh paint, new storage and equipment; and a new Pre-School Manager has been appointed. The committee and staff have worked really hard clearing and cleaning furniture and toys, rearranging storage and returning Pre-School back to normal in time for the start of term. We are very excited about the changes and think the Summer Term is going to be fantastic for all the children. We hope you do too!

Thank you for your support
The Hillside Committee

Dates for your diary:

<i>Tues 27th April</i>	<i>Coffee Morning and Toy Sale</i>
<i>Fri 30th April</i>	<i>Inset Day CANCELLED - OPEN AS USUAL</i>
<i>Mon 3rd May</i>	<i>Bank Holiday - CLOSED</i>
<i>Tues 11th May</i>	<i>Exclusive Film Evening</i>
<i>Fri 28th May</i>	<i>Inset Day - CLOSED</i>
<i>31st May - 4th June</i>	<i>Half Term</i>

New Pre-School Manager for Hillside!

A big warm welcome to Emma Weidner who will be joining as our Pre-School Manager. Emma, who is married with two young boys aged 3 years and 7 and a half months brings with her a wealth of experience in Early Years and the running of a day care nursery. Emma is NNEB qualified, has a foundation degree in Early Years Care and a BA (hons) in Education Studies (Early Childhood). She is currently working her notice as the Nursery Manager for a 46 place day nursery in Berkhamsted which she set up in the Summer of 2005 and has worked at since it's opening in January 2006.

Emma will be working Fridays with us from now until she starts full time on Thursday 20th May. She will also be working closely with us during that time to get to know the staff and the current procedures and has already been involved in the 'Revamp' giving us some much needed help and advice! Until Emmas full time start date, Jo Day will continue to work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays alongside our great team of staff. Please feel free to speak to Jo or one of the team should you have any queries.

We hope you will be as delighted as we are about Emma starting with us and look forward to an exciting term ahead!

If you would like to help in any way or have any fundraising ideas, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the staffing team or the committee ... Hillside could not run without you!

Hillside Revamp!

So, what happened to Hillside over the Easter Holidays?! ... Well, the Pre-School room was completely emptied of all toys and furniture, scrubbed, prepared and painted. New storage for the toys and craft equipment was researched and ordered ahead of the holidays and was then fitted by a carpenter once the paint had dried! The committee and staff worked incredibly hard both clearing and cleaning and also getting everything organised and back 'in-situ' in time for the start of term so that the children could come back to Pre-School and resume play as usual! It has been a whirlwind makeover and one which we feel will really give the place a boost. Painting of the entrance hall and toilets has also started and will continue in the afternoons this week which will make the whole place feel lighter and brighter.

Many thanks to all the parents and staff that helped over the holidays and that also help to fundraise during the course of the year. This is what the fundraising is all about, ensuring that Hillside continues to be a great place for our children and that they have access to the toys and equipment that make their time and education fun. An extra big thanks goes to Fiona Kelly who has worked tirelessly organising the painters and carpenter, researching the storage solutions and making many trips to IKEA with the help of her husband! She managed the entire project, has done an amazing job and really does deserve all the credit for making it happen. Well done Fiona!

The current fundraising budget has been spent on the refurbishment and therefore we will need to work hard for the rest of the year to ensure we can purchase the other items that the Pre-School needs, so look out for upcoming events and please please get involved, we really do need your help!

Exclusive Cinema Screening of "I love you Phillip Morris"

You will already have received details about a private film screening exclusively for Hillside parents/carers of the film "I love you Phillip Morris" on Tuesday 11th May at 'Soho House' in the West End. Tickets are priced at £10 - with all proceeds going to Hillside - and are selling out fast!

For more details or to book, please contact Rachel Lesiter:
rachellesiter@hotmail.com

Coffee Morning and Toy Sale

*We will be having a coffee morning and second hand toy sale on **TUESDAY 27TH APRIL** from **9.15** to **10.15** in the Florence Brown Hall at Hillside. The toy stall will sell good condition second hand toys with all proceeds going to Hillside. Look out for the flyer for more details...!*

Thanks you's! ... To the Staff that came in to help clear and/or put back! .. to the parents who gave their time to help by coming in to clean and clear or by looking after other peoples children so that they could! .. To Jane, Rachel and Mel for their efforts on upcoming fundraising for this year (watch this space!) .. To Jo Taylors husband for donating the new childrens computer .. to Fionas husband who made lots of trips to IKEA and lots more! .. And to everyone else who has pitched in over the holidays.

A special thank you also goes to Suzannah Purslow who, after singing fabulously at the Peppermill last month for the first time on "Jazz on Tuesdays", donated enough money to enable us to buy a new computer desk for the children which is a fantastic and much needed addition to the Pre-School so thank you very much indeed!

Hillside Committee

Jo Day
Claire Poulson
Christine Deeley
Jo Taylor
Fiona Kelly

Fundraising Team

Rachel Lesiter
Mel Jadoul
Jane O'Mahony

Questionnaire

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to fill in the questionnaire. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and has helped us to understand what you as parents/carers think about Hillside. The overall outcome is that you feel that your children are being well cared for and enjoy their time at Pre-School which is great news and what we aim to achieve! We have also discovered that you would all find more communication useful. Information on what the children are doing on a daily basis, the snacks they are being given and regular communication about your childrens progress were all commented on as elements of your childrens time at Hillside that you would like to know more about. We will be looking at ways in which we can provide this communication in the coming term and hope this will improve your time at Hillside. Thanks again.

Website

We now have a shiny new website available for viewing at www.hillsidepreschool.co.uk The site contains our Policies and Procedures and other information that may be useful to you as parents/carers and also to people looking at Pre-Schools in the area for their children. The 'Parents Place' portion of the site has been developed to give you information on Sessions, Term Dates and the latest fundraising news so please visit regularly for updates! The site is still "work in progress" and there is plenty to do so if you have any suggestions or information that you would like to see on there, please email Jo Taylor: joelizataylor@hotmail.co.uk

EASY FUNDRAISERS

Here is a reminder of the 'easy fundraisers' available at Hillside at no extra cost to you..

Shopping and fundraising in one!

Do you shop online at **Tesco, Asda, John Lewis, Boots, M&S, Next, Boden, Argos, ELC, Amazon** etc., or do you renew your car insurance online?

Using www.easyfundraising.org.uk as a 'gateway' for all your online shopping is a brilliantly easy way to raise money for Hillside Pre-School. It costs you nothing and easyfundraising will give a small percentage of the total cost of your purchase directly to Hillside.

All you have to do is log onto www.easyfundraising.org.uk and register, selecting Hillside Pre-School as your charity (takes less than a minute). Then, every time you shop online, log into easyfundraising first and access your chosen online store through their list, which will take you straight into the shop's own site. There are over 600 retailers listed so give it a try!

Tesco and Sainsburys Vouchers

Don't forget Hillside are now registered for both Tesco 'Schools and Clubs' and Sainsburys 'Active Kids' vouchers. You can collect one voucher for every £10 you spend in-store or on-line. There is a collection box on the table outside pre-school so please bring them in!

Yellow Moon

This site offers educational and fun products offering 25% cashback to school groups and charities. Hillside are registered to receive the cashback on any purchases made via this site so visit www.yellowmoon.org.uk or pick up a catalogue from preschool.

Tables and Chairs for Hire

Having your child's birthday party at home? Hire tables and chairs from Hillside. It costs £5 for a table with 4 chairs and all proceeds go directly to funds for our children. See a member of the committee or staff team to book