

# Heriot Hill Nursery December 2010



## WEATHER CHAOS!!

As I write, things at last seem to be getting back to normal after extreme weather conditions. Due to dangerous conditions on Monday 29th November, Charlie took the decision to close the nursery as many staff found it impossible to get to work that morning. This is a very unusual occurrence and has only happened twice in 22 years—the first time being last year. Since then, we have had to close the nursery at 4pm each day to ensure the safety of children, parents and staff in reaching home. We have made the decision to pay the staff as normal for any days/hours lost at work and of course have all our other normal costs associated with running the nursery so are treating these days as normal nursery days. I know that you will join with me in thanking all the staff for making the effort to get here every day and many of you have already said how much you appreciate this.

I know that this is the beginning of what could be a long and difficult winter, and while we can't anticipate closing completely due to extreme weather, we have worked out a staffing plan where we could remain open normal hours with a skeleton staff of those who live near the nursery. Surprisingly, of our 35 staff, only around six live nearby, some living as far away as Dunbar and Haddington, and many on the outskirts of Edinburgh. But in any event you can rest assured we will try our utmost to keep things as normal as possible for you and your children in the coming months.



## WINTER DELIVERIES!



Congratulations to the families who have new babies born in time for Christmas. They are: Dugald O'Donnell who has a little sister, Elena, Jasmine and Saskia Mitchell have a little brother, Hugo, and hot of the press, Sophie Yelland has a baby sister Chloe!



## NURSERY INSPECTION

As you know we had our Care Commission Inspection on Friday 27th of October. We now have the Inspection Report on which we are glad to say we scored "very good" in the area inspected which was Quality of Care and Support. Thanks again to all the parents who completed the Care Commission's questionnaire. You will see some of the very complimentary comments in the report which is available on the nursery website under 'documents' - [www.heriothillnursery.com](http://www.heriothillnursery.com) or on the Care Commission website which is: [www.carecommission.com](http://www.carecommission.com)

## CHILDREN IN NEED

Once again, the nursery had various activities going on to raise funds for children in need. This year we managed to raise a bumper amount of:

**£1491.20**



Thanks to the efforts of all parents and staff.



The children from Bumble Bees taking part in their sponsored walk...



## CHRISTMAS DATES

Just a quick reminder to everyone of some important dates for Christmas:

Saturday 11th December - Staff Night Out

Monday 20th December - Pre-School Nativity (4-5pm)

Tuesday 21st December - Children's Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 22nd December - Christmas Parties with Santa (starting at 2.30 pm)

Friday 24th December - Nursery closes at 4pm

Nursery re-opens Wednesday 5th January at usual time.



## LITERARY SHOWCASE

On the 12th of November, two of our staff - Louise and Rachel - were asked to go along to Gylemuir Primary to showcase some of the work they have done with the children. The idea of this was to share good practice with other nurseries and we were very pleased to be invited along to this.

## PARENTS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

It is our intention to start a Parents Representative Group in 2011. This would entail 3 meetings (one per term), and the meetings would take place between 5-6pm. Please have a think about volunteering for this as we would appreciate hearing your views. If you are interested please email

[charlie@heriothillnursery.com](mailto:charlie@heriothillnursery.com)



## PRE-SCHOOL OPEN AFTERNOONS

In the nursery, we always like to prepare the children well for moving from room to room, so recently we came up with the idea of having an 'Open Afternoon' in pre-school for children moving from Bumble Bees Room. We were aware that it may have been a long time since parents viewed the nursery and perhaps needed another look at what we offer in the pre-school section. The last one was held on the 13th of October where parents were able to meet the staff, view the rooms, have a look at our new toilets and re-furnished resource room with the interactive whiteboard. I hope parents find this useful. Our next Open Afternoon will be held on Tuesday 21st December between 4-5.30pm. Invitations will be sent out to the relevant parents.

We also held a very successful Parents Evening in pre-school on the 1st of November where parents were able to view their child's Personal Learning Plans and discuss their development to date.



At least the children enjoyed the snow!



I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!