



Dear Parents and Carers

This has been such a warm week for the children but they have run around with their usual enthusiasm. They are encouraged to drink through out the day, water is available in the rooms and outside. Sun cream is applied in day care. Most have been remembering their hats although a few are reluctant to wear them, whilst we do have spares if they forget their hat it is better for them to have their own with both their name in it and a symbol that they recognise easily. We are so lucky to have a lot of shade in the garden and have put it to good use with some watery activities to cool the children down. Please remember sensible footwear is just as essential, there have been a few falls caused by open toed footwear getting caught and tripping children up. Thankyou to everyone who has remembered no crocs, flip-flops... Baby Room is air conditioned so the babies have been more comfortable and when outside shade is available for them.

Sunshine Room have in the last week attempted to have two visits from a fire engine and each time just as the engine arrived they were called out on an emergency. This was disappointing but also valuable in helping the children understand what the fire service does and how important it is.



We are looking towards the end of term and some of the children moving to Reception Classes in September. Teachers from local schools have started visiting Muriel Green. And the children will all be seeing their new schools this term. We had a meeting for parents of children who will be in Sunshine Room in September, our new Headteacher Gemma Williamson and new teacher Naomi Walker-Smith also attended. Along with Carol-Ann the schools and settings link worker at Sopwell and Verulam Children's Centre. The Children's Centre has lots of activities for all under fives, including babies and their parents, please look at our display in the corridor.

There have been some very sad events in the news recently and I would like to reassure you that we do revisit our emergency procedures regularly. All the rooms will be doing walk through drills during the next few days to remind children of our evacuation procedures and also to take them through 'lockdown' for dealing with the possibility of a danger from outside. Staff revisited this in a staff meeting last week.

We would like to wish our Nursery Assistant Holly Pullinger good luck as she leaves us once more to go travelling, this time to Japan to teach English, we know she will be brilliant and we will miss her!

We have welcomed two new Nursery Assistants Fatima and Asma AL-Ruqaibi for the summer. Also Claire Depeza has started as a Lunch Club Assistant, she will be joined by Janet Moverly-Peers next Monday.

Parents with three and four year olds will soon be receiving details of our end of year picnic on 20th July. Please return the form that comes with it to help with planning, Zena is coming up with some fun activities. So be prepared!

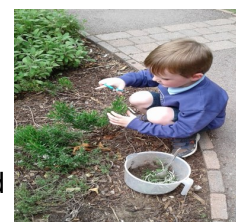
Have a fun weekend with the children!

Best Wishes

Karen Ashton Headteacher

Sunshine Room

The children in Sunshine Room have been very engaged in their new topic of people who help us. They have been dressing up and getting into role, we have had many fire-fighters and policemen! The children have also been enjoying the lovely weather and have spent lots of time in the outside learning area, building in the sandpit, constructing using aqua play and using the climbing equipment. They have also been very interested making soups and pies in the mud kitchen using freshly cut herbs from our garden.



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Ocean and Rainbow Rooms

The children in Ocean and Rainbow Rooms have been following their interests of 'Superheros'. They have been designing their own superheros, dressing up and joining in with Superhero dancing.

Baby Room

Baby room has a summer/seaside theme for our 5 Rhymes and Stories this half term. The babies love their new books and have been learning new songs. Water play in many different colours with sea creatures, pots and containers has been very popular! The babies have been exploring different textures using their sense of touch when engaged in many other messy activities such as body painting, wet flour, corn flour, shaving foam and sand play. The children were fascinated when mixing paint colours, filling and emptying, picking at some funny textures and making a big splash!



There are so many new initiatives in Early Years at the moment we can understand some confusion! Parents are wondering what they are entitled to, how to find out about it and where they can do it....

Childcare
Choices

Please take a look at the new Childcare choices website: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk
This will help with accessing tax free childcare that is available for children up to the age of 11 and with applying for a voucher code for 30 funded hours if your child is starting nursery school.

**YOU CANNOT CLAIM 30 FREE HOURS IN SEPTEMBER IF YOU HAVE NOT APPLIED THIS TERM.
WE MUST HAVE YOUR 11 DIGIT NUMBER.
WE WILL BE CONTACTING PARENTS ABOUT SEPTEMBER DAY CARE HOURS SHORTLY.**

Transition to Reception!

- When children leave Muriel Green to go to Reception we send all Learning Journals home to you except the last one. The last one is passed to the Reception Teacher for them to see what your child has achieved, they will then give it back to you. We will also pass on any additional Reports that we have received from other professionals e.g. Speech and Language Therapists or Paediatricians. This is a very effective way of ensuring the next school has the information they need. If you do not want reports passed on please let Phillippa Tullberg our SENCo know.
- Many children will be leaving us at the end of the summer to go to their new reception classes, if your child is in day care please remember to give notice to the nursery and ensure fees are up to date. Vouchers cannot be refunded so make sure they are used.
- After half term we will be doing transition activities with the children, we will not start too soon as September is a long way off and we do not want to make children anxious. They will be able to talk about their feelings about the change and what they will be doing. They will have a school role play area with uniform and photographs from some local schools.



Reminders and Dates

- Holiday dates for the coming year are attached. Please note there are some staff training days still to be arranged.
- Parents of children in Sunshine Room in September must return admission forms by 26th June 2017
- The whole Nursery: Day Care and School will be closed on Friday 30th June for Staff Training. The staff will be going to the Herts Nursery school Conference where Alistair Bryce Clegg will be the speaker. Google Mr ABC for some fun ideas for activities with children.
- This term will end for all funded sessions in Sunshine, Rainbow and Ocean on Thursday 20th July. Details about our Family Picnic for our leavers on this day will be sent out later.
- On Friday the 20th July all rooms will be closed for staff training - something creative!!