

Nursery Department Report

We have had another busy year at Trinity Lodge, working very hard to maintain the high standards set in previous years and preparing to implement the new Early Years Foundation Stage Framework in September.

During the year we said goodbye to Tric Ashby who had worked tirelessly for the nursery since becoming our Manager in September 2001. It was with some trepidation I took on this role, not least because I knew I would have to speak to you all today! On a personal note I would like to thank all my colleagues at the nursery and throughout the school as well as the many parents who have supported and encouraged me.

Although the children in the nursery are very young, they show a keen interest in global affairs and those less fortunate than themselves. As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations, we discussed Fair Trade. Thanks to Caroline Twohig who inspired us all with her interesting talk and many props, including a giant inflatable banana, the children became familiar with the Fair Trade symbol and many parents commented on the fact they were no longer allowed to put items in their supermarket trolley until they had checked the packaging for this symbol. Fair Trade products, clothes and toys generously donated by parents, were sent to a gypsy village in Romania which we have personal links with via Sue Owens who used to work at Trinity Lodge and now lives and works with some of the world's poorest people. By looking at photographs, the children were able to see the stark contrast between their own lives and how little some people have.

During Lent we took up the Church of England's challenge to reduce our Carbon Footprint. The children were encouraged to ask the adults to switch off lights whenever they saw one left on which wasn't really needed. This proved to be very successful and on going. We hope the Bursar is impressed with our reduced electricity bill!

Recently the children took part in a sponsored marathon challenge to raise money for Children with Leukaemia. They had to complete 26 tasks of their choosing which ranged from finding 26 objects within the school grounds from a Tractor to a Buttercup, to doing 26 star jumps.

We have continued to join with the Reception class for joint mornings which have been very successful, particularly a recent one when the children built "Trinity City" from numerous cardboard boxes in a variety of shapes and sizes. We all enjoy the facilities being part of a large school provide and babies can frequently be seen being carried, pushed or encouraged to walk through the grounds stopping for picnics in the shade of the beautiful trees.

We are very grateful to the P.E. Department for allowing us to use the gym which is the highlight of the week for many of our children. All that space to move around in and the noise it creates is very attractive to the 3 and 4 year olds.

Thank you to Alan Webber for his art workshops, particularly the one held on the Saturday morning when parents were also able to get involved. The children are very proud of the wonderful art work they are able to produce under his expert guidance. Thank you also to Carol Hulme who talked to us about the role of the librarian doing several visits to the Junior library. All of these links help to make the move from Nursery to school a smooth one and a positive, enjoyable experience for the children and their parents.

We are constantly updating our resources at Trinity Lodge to ensure we have the best possible facilities for your children. Visitors often comment on the homely feel of the nursery and note there is a happy, busy, hum of children who are involved in a variety of activities.

We are very privileged that you trust us to care for your young children and our work is very rewarding as we watch them develop and grow in confidence. There are often amusing moments too especially for those of us whose hearing maybe not as good as it used to be as on a recent walk when we were discussing keeping healthy, Jason commented that he has "Cool Jets." Thinking they were probably the latest make of trainer I asked "Are you wearing them today?" He replied "you don't wear them, you eat them." Ah, maybe they are the latest breakfast cereal I thought so I said " Do you have them for breakfast?" "No" came the reply. By now I am really curious, so I ask can you describe them to me. "Well, they are long and green." Finally light dawns "Cool Jets" are in fact courgettes!

The last 12 months have indeed been busy but also very rewarding and I look forward to the challenges of the year ahead.

Mrs Liz Saunders,

Trinity Lodge Manager