



Newsletter April 2008

This Term's News

Our look at **Spring** is going well and the children have produced some really lovely creations which are making our displays look fantastic. The tadpoles are wriggling about like mad and our beans now have shoots growing out of the jam jars!

Thanks to the primary school we will have the use of a large raised bed on their site in which we can plant out all the radish, lettuce and turnip seedlings the children have planted already, and hopefully sweet peas, peas, beans and other things that smell nice and taste good! We will be able to access the garden freely so that all the children will benefit from experiencing a real patch of earth and plants to tend as well as becoming more familiar with the school that most of them move on to.

Our final week this term will be on the theme of **Superheroes** (including fairy godmothers and Wonderwoman!) as this is a theme that comes up very often, particularly in the boys' play, and we would like to take the opportunity to follow this theme up positively showing that we value their interests and because there are such opportunities for them to learn through play that really sparks their imaginations.

Toddle Waddle

Don't forget our **Toddle Waddle** for the Meningitis Trust on **Tuesday 1 April**. Details should have been sent home, but if

you need to know anything, ask a member of staff. This is our parents' and carers' event for the term.

Next term

Next term our topic will be **Mini Beasts!!** This is one of our favourites, with lots of opportunities to get to know more about all sorts of creepy crawlies. We will have a visit from Zoo Lab, who always bring lovely creatures like giant cockroaches, snakes and (last time) a tarantula!

Requests

If anyone has a **vacuum cleaner** they no longer require, Pre-school would be very grateful – ours has finally given up on us.

We are also looking for a **sturdy potting table**, as the cupboard we used to store flower pots, etc., is really ready for the dump!

Sainsbury's and Tesco's schemes

Sainsbury's Active Kids scheme runs from 14 Feb to 4 June. Last year we collected enough vouchers for some bean bags, a balance board and a book of games for our parachute.

Tesco's Computers for Schools scheme runs from 3 March to 11 May. Last year we were able to order some software for our computer, including a colourful children's encyclopaedia.

Collecting boxes are in the lobby – we are very grateful for all your vouchers!

Committee News

Next Committee Meeting Tuesday 29 April,
time and venue tbc.

AGM Monday 19 May, 8pm at the Band Hall, *subject to confirmation.*

Term dates

Term 4: 25 Feb – 4 Apr 2008
Term 5: 21 Apr – 23 May 2008
Term 6: 2 Jun – 25 Jul 2008

Bank Holiday 5 May 2008.

Web site

A reminder of our web site:
<http://www.downtonpreschool.co.uk/>