

**Little Apples of Bramley**  
Registered charity no 1045353  
Tel: 07990 635806

Issued June 2009



# News Pips

## Sarah's News...

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent AGM. I would like to say a big thank you to the outgoing committee for all their hard work and dedication. Without them we would not be able to run. I am very pleased to welcome the new committee members, and although it must feel really scary now, I am sure we will all work together to continue the high standards that Little Apples strives for.

We are now in our last term before the summer break and at the moment are all enjoying the warmer weather. Please remember a hat and to apply sun cream! Looking forward to next term, if your child is returning to us please fill in and return the acceptance for as soon as possible. If they are off to school and NOT attending Bramley School could you please let us have the name and address of the school they will be attending so that we can forward on their educational records.

We are looking forward to some stick insects arriving at Little Apples for the children to look at and see what they do. We were very lucky on the last day of term that two of our butterflies hatched out and we were able to watch them for ages. One sat on my finger for an hour!

**Sarah Naylor (Play Leader)**

## A Word from the Chair...

Hello, my name is Lucy Clark and I have recently taken over from Anna Keir as Chair for Little Apples. I have two children - Zachary my eldest who is coming to the end of his time at Little Apples and getting ready to start school in September, and Amelia who will be starting Little Apples in January.

I'm really looking forward to getting involved and hopefully adding some valuable support to Little Apples and the committee.

**Lucy Clark (Chair)**

## Final words from Anna...

We had a successful AGM just before half term and after a rocky start a new chairperson was successfully appointed, welcome Lucy. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to help on the committee it is lovely to have lots of new members and many hands will make light work.

For me these are my last few weeks with a child at Little Apples, after six continuous years of coming here September will be very strange, and in many ways quite sad as I have got to know Sarah and the staff very well. All I can say is thank you for looking after all of my children so well.

They have all thoroughly enjoyed their time at Little Apples and made some wonderful friends. That goes for me too.

There is lots happening this half term, we have recently had the Ladies Night which was a great success, we will be at the school fete on 11<sup>th</sup> July and our annual outing this year is to Beale Park. Please do support Little Apples by coming along to all these events.

It just remains for me to welcome Lucy and wish her every success in this next year.

**Anna Keir**

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## Fundraising News...

A big thank you to everyone who helped at and attended the Ladies Night on 12<sup>th</sup> June. Everyone agreed it was a good night and we now know that we raised approximately £940 - a great amount for the playgroup.

Many local people and businesses donated raffle prizes, helped with the food and wine etc and so a very big thank you goes to them as well. We were extremely grateful for all the books that were donated, you will be pleased to hear we raised £38 on that particular stall.

We would also like to thank the therapists who generously donated their time and worked so hard throughout the evening. If anyone would like to contact any of the stall holders or therapists I have their contact details.

I'd also like to say how hard the committee worked before and on the night for this event but despite it being hard work we still managed to enjoy ourselves.

## Thank you to:

|                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| The Bramley Bakery                  | Therapists:                  |
| Your Country Florist<br>(Chineham)  | Gristwood Mills              |
| The Four Horseshoes                 | Penny James                  |
| The Jekyll and Hyde                 | Tricia Williamson            |
| Tesco                               | Cristabella Mobile<br>Beauty |
| Sainsburys                          | Tina's Treats                |
| Lush                                | Jenny Edwards                |
| Bodyshopt                           | Cala Salon-Lynne Baker       |
| Bluebella Lingerie                  | Bodywise                     |
| Vie@home                            |                              |
| Howcroft Garden Svcs                |                              |
| Shin Gi Tai Martial<br>Arts Academy |                              |
| Carla's Candles                     |                              |
| Phoenix cards                       |                              |

If I have forgotten anyone please accept my apologies and contact me so that you get a mention in the next News pips

Moving on, the next big event in the fundraising calendar is the Summer Fete held at Bramley school. This is to be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July. Once again we will be there with a great stall and a chance to win an exciting raffle prize. We look forward to seeing you all there and thank you all again for your on-going support.

**Caroline Modle (Fundraiser)**



Above: the committee that worked so hard to make Ladies Night a big success!

## Dates for your diaries...

- 2 July: Committee meeting  
9 July: Summer trip, Beale Park  
11 July: BSA summer fete  
22 July: End of term



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## Reminders...

- Bring a hat
- Apply sun cream before children arrive - the children have access to the outside area at all times
- Label all removable items of clothing

Thank you!



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## The committee...

The new committee consists of fourteen members. We meet regularly to discuss relevant issues, make decisions as necessary, and organise fundraising events.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 8pm. Please feel free to talk to any of us about how the committee works, or if you have any questions about joining us.

Here is a full list of the current committee:

- |                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chair:                           | Lucy Clark      |
| Vice Chair:                      | Kylie Hopwood   |
| Treasurer:                       | Kate Sparks     |
| Secretary:                       | Philippa Elwell |
| Playleader/village hall liaison: | Sarah Naylor    |
| Administrator:                   | Claire Knop     |
| Fundraising:                     | Caroline Modle  |
| External Communications:         | Sarah De Sio    |
| New building project:            | Anna Keir       |
| General committee members:       |                 |
|                                  | Lara Smith      |
|                                  | Erin Stockham   |
|                                  | Emma Ryman      |
|                                  | Elizabeth Groom |

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## FAQ's...

### Why is my child getting unsettled now they are moving on?

Some children will become unsettled attending Little Apples during this term. This is quite normal and does not happen to all children. It is because they are a little worried about what is happening. To them September is a very long way away, three months when you are four years old is a huge amount of time. They may become more clingy or push the boundaries more at home. If you are worried please chat with a member of staff and we can advise on strategies to overcome this at playgroup.

### What should I bring on the summer trip?

Weather appropriate clothing - sun hat/rain coat, sun cream, packed lunch, drink.

This is a great opportunity to spend some time with your child exploring a different place. The staff will be attending so that the children and you can chat to us in an informal way.

## Top Tips...

### How do I make my own play dough?

This is the recipe that we use to make the play dough for Little Apples:

You will need:

2 mugs of plain flour

1 mug of salt

2 mugs of cold water

2 tablespoons of vegetable oil

4 teaspoons Cream of Tartar

Optional : few drops of food colouring and/or glitter

1. Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar (and glitter if using) together in a saucepan.
2. Add the cold water, vegetable oil and food colouring gradually.
3. Cook the play dough on a low heat, stirring all the time until the mixture slowly thickens into a big stretchy elastic mass that is so stiff you can't stir it anymore.
4. Tip out the dough onto a work surface and wait few moments until it is cool enough to handle. Knead for a few minutes until you get a lovely smooth, soft and pliable dough.
5. Your homemade Play dough is now ready to use! Store in an airtight container in the fridge and it should keep for a couple of weeks at least.



**' Now you can go to the ball...'**

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**Caroline Modle**

01256 880955

cmmodle@waitrose.com

Call for an appointment or visit on an advertised open day.

www...

We are currently designing our own Little Apples web site. If you have any suggestions or thoughts on what you would like to see on it, please contact us. Drop a note in the suggestion box or email [littleapplesofbramley@hotmail.com](mailto:littleapplesofbramley@hotmail.com).



### Fancy getting involved?

Please remember we welcome parent helpers at any time. There is a calendar in the entrance hall. Just write your name on a day that is suitable for you.

### Reminder:

Please send your child into Little Apples in clothing that they can manage themselves.

Whilst we supervise the children in the toilets, we encourage them to help themselves. Belts and dungarees in particular can be troublesome and on occasion cause accidents as clothing cannot be taken off quickly enough.

## How do I cope with bored children in the summer holidays?

Below are a few ideas for staying sane through the long summer holidays. If you have any more that other parents may not have thought about, please let us know!

- Play dough - add some calming essential oil to the recipe on the previous page for an afternoon of quiet play.
- If it's raining, go camping... in the lounge. Let your child pack up bedding, teddies, and serve their lunch in the camp as a picnic for extra fun.
- There's no more productive way to spend a rainy morning than getting your kids to cook. The downside is the state your kitchen will be in at the end of it. But, with the rarest of exceptions, you'll be able to eat the results! At the younger age range, try something relatively foolproof like peppermint creams or fairy cakes.
- Get gardening - what better way could there be to get the kids out in the fresh air? If possible, give your child their own small section to call their own. If your child is anti-veg, they are far more likely to eat something if they've grown it themselves.
- Make a scrap book through the holidays - take photos, draw pictures, keep momentos, ticket stubs etc.
- Water play - to liven things up in the paddling pool, rinse out old squeeze bottles and let the kids squirt each other. Little ones will enjoy bathing dolls in a washing-up bowl, or using a little detergent to clean down their bike or trike.
- Fun for free: feed the ducks, go for a walk, jump in muddy puddles, look out for free days at National Trust sites, picnics, invite friends over for a play date, do junk modelling with bits and pieces you find at home, involve children in the chores (e.g. washing the car), have a clearout (toys that haven't been seen for a long time will now be very popular), set up a home cinema (close the curtains, make tickets, make popcorn and put on a DVD), make collages with pictures taken from old magazines...
- Days out: Alice Holt (near Birdworld), The Lookout (Bracknell), Finkley Down Farm, Wellington Country Park, Milestones, Action Farm (Thatcham), New Forest, Bucklebury Farm, Legoland, California Country Park, Beale Park, The Living Rainforest, Trilakes Animal Park...

**Enjoy the summer!!**

