

# Rhymes Round-up

Autumn 2010



## GOING FOR A DEGREE

**We ask Rachael and Kelly why they are pulling out all stops to gain an Early Years Foundation Degree at UCS.**

Foundation degrees are higher education qualifications designed to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills for employment and to further career choices. They have been designed with employers and higher education providers to ensure they are sector specific and a suitable alternative to a traditional degree programme.

The course combines work based learning with academic study, and enables employers to enhance staff training and development with minimal disruption to the business operation. Flexible study options allow the students to attend part time university and continue to work full time in the setting.

We interviewed Kelly and Rachael, who both work at Martlesham Nursery, to find out how they are getting on and how they have found their first year.

### **Why did you decide to undertake the foundation degree?**

To improve our knowledge of children's learning and development, as well as improve ourselves as early years practitioners and our practice at the setting.

### **How have you found your first year at university?**

It has been very good but slightly challenging at times. It has certainly been enjoyable and has gone really quickly. I can't believe we are about to start our second year.

### **What do you feel you have learnt so far?**

How to reflect on our practice, has been a major part of the course so far. How to link the theory into practice and how it is relevant today. We have also covered advanced safeguarding procedures,



*Kelly and Rachael at Martlesham Nursery*

inclusion and children's rights as some of our modules. Good time management has been essential, trying to incorporate studying, working and seeing friends into our schedules.

### **What do you hope to achieve by the end of your studies?**

A higher level qualification and more knowledge and understanding of early years practice to further my career within early years.

### **What advice if any would you give to others wanting to start the course?**

You must be 100% committed to do this, as it is a massive undertaking. You really must want to do it. There is a lot of work and reading which can take up quite a bit of your own time.

### **Any surprises?**

Presentations linked to each module. We have had to develop the confidence to speak to groups, as each module has involved a presentation of the work element. The workload has also been very intense, we were made aware there would be a large amount of work but until we actually started we couldn't visualise how much this was going to be.

## In this issue



Brand new Out of School buildings for Felixstowe (above) and Gorseland (Control Tower) clubs.



Two members of staff help raise funds for St Elizabeth's Hospice, at the Ufford Fun Day.



A big tick for training, see Training Round-up inside.



Out of School clubs go green, and a lot more on the OoS Notice Board.

# Out of School Notice Board

## Rhymes @ Felixstowe is built in record time

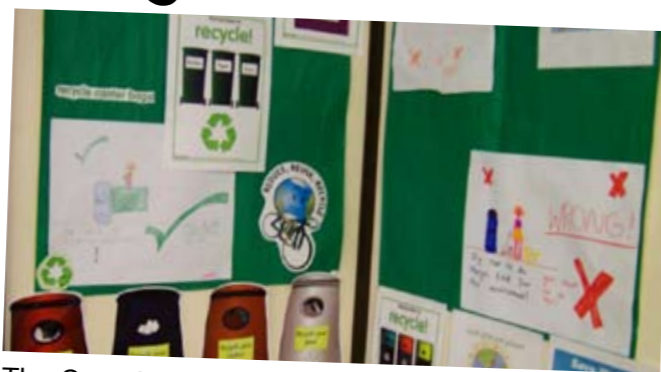
Opening its doors for business at the beginning of the September term, Rhymes @ Felixstowe is our latest brand new building, hugely improving the service we are able to offer children and parents in the area. Based at Kingsfleet Primary, the club also provides a daily collection service for children from Causten, Colnies, Fairfield and Maidstone schools.

'Our previous premises in Felixstowe were not ideal' says Beverley Harvey our Out of School Manager, 'but we've been working closely with Suffolk County Council to give Felixstowe children the After School and Holiday Club care they deserve. The new building is fantastic, with room for 24 children and set up for a wide range of fun indoor activities, crafts and games. Outside there's a large outside playing area so the children can let off steam.'



The new club building ready for the new term.

## Going Green



The Out of School clubs are going green, each club has been given a recycling pack containing ideas for games, activities, work sheets and posters about ways to educate children on being greener. The clubs are going to be recycling all their waste using the correct bins provided, encouraging the children to do it themselves. They will be learning through activities such as litter picking, growing their own vegetables and being healthier by walking and biking instead of using a car. The children have a selection of word searches and colouring sheets to widen their knowledge.

Emma Carr

## All set for the move from the Control Tower

Yes! We are at last relocating to Gorseland School to a new building, taking 32 children from Gorseland and Birchwood School. The children from Birchwood will join the walking train back to Gorseland. There's a large play area, kitchen, toilets and office. The children will have the use of the school field, so there will be lots of outside play. We hope to move in the October half term.



It's all about Fun

# Training Round-up

As well as our Early Year Foundation degree students, featured on the front cover, we are really pleased to congratulate all our people who have worked hard to increase their qualifications over the last few months.

### Martlesham Nursery

Laura Curtis – NVQ Level 3\*  
Jenny Driver – NVQ Level 3\*  
Jasmine Greenhalgh – Certificate Level 3 Early Years Foundation Stage Practice  
Lisa Hardwicke – NVQ level 4\*  
Lisa Thurlow – Early Years Foundation Degree

### Kesgrave

Brigitte Fobbie – NVQ Level 3\*  
Katie King – CACHE Advanced practice in working with Babies (Level 3)  
Jack Rudland – NVQ Level 2\*  
Sheetal Shah – NVQ Level 3\*

\* NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development



### Beacon Hill Pre-School

Kerry Weatherall – NVQ Level 3\*

### Out of School

Kate Ford – Transitional Level 3 in Play Work  
Kelvin Padmore – NVQ Level 2 in Play Work  
Jo Parsons – NVQ Level 3 in Play Work  
Sarah Sawyer – NVQ Level 3 in Play Work  
Laura Taynton – NVQ Level 3 in Play Work

## Don't tell me Christmas is getting closer already!



### Dates for your Diary

#### Martlesham

Parent's Evening – 1st November  
Children's Christmas Party – 16th December

#### Kesgrave

Parent's Evening – 12th October  
Children's Christmas Sing Along (tree decoration in the square – 26th November  
Children's Christmas Party – 15th December

#### Beacon Hill Pre-school

Children's Christmas Party – 15th December

#### Out of School

Christmas Party – week commencing 20th December

#### Fundraising Dates (see individual settings for information)

Wear It Pink – 29th October  
Children in Need – 19th November

### TERM DATES

#### Beacon Hill Pre-School Term Dates

Autumn Term 2010 6th September to 16th December  
Half Term – 25th October 2010  
Spring Term 2011 5th January to 8th April 2011  
Half Term – 21st February 2011  
Summer Term 2011 27th April to 22nd July 2011  
Half Term 30th May 2011

### TERM DATES

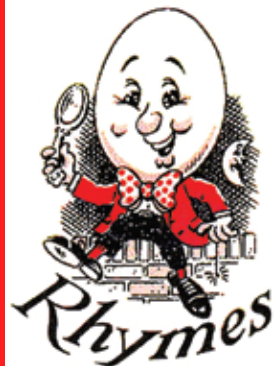
#### Martlesham and Kesgrave Nursery

Autumn Term 2010 6th September to 17th December  
Half Term 25th October 2010  
Spring Term 2011 10th January to 8 April 2011  
Half Term 21st February 2011  
Summer Term 2011 26th April to 22nd July 2011  
Half Term 30th May 2011  
Christmas Break 2010 close 24th Dec 2pm open 4th Jan 2011  
Easter Break 2011 closed 22nd April – 25th April  
May Bank Holidays 2011 closed 2nd and 30th May



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## Raising £34,000 for St Elizabeth Hospice, Ipswich



Over the past 8 years, Gina Smith one of our nursery managers and Jo Smith our Kesgrave nursery cook have been helping organise a fundraising event, The Ufford Bygones and Fun Day.

The event donated £9,000 in 2009 and has raised a total of over £34,000 for the St Elizabeth Hospice over the past seven years. The event is held at Crown Farm in Ufford, which is owned by the family and is co-ordinated entirely from voluntary support, friends and family. A large number of bygones and attractions are organised,

including steam engines, agricultural bygones, static displays of vintage tractors and old motorcycles, exhibits of vehicles from the 1920s through to the 1970s, and minis from the local mini club. There are also attractions for all the family, arts and crafts stalls, and games of fun and skill, such as archery and the chance to scoop up a plastic duck from its watery abode using a digger. There's even a children's driving school, and of course, as you'd expect, there is, last but not least, the ever-popular bouncy castle and much, much more.

## A lot to thank the staff for

When we start the process of putting together another Rhymes Round-up, we often wonder what on earth are we going to fill it with. This time, as the stories came in, it once again confirmed what a great team we have at Rhymes.

So all I need to say is well done. Well done to everyone who has put in the effort to improve their training; to the Out of School team for organising the opening of two new buildings, so close together; and well done too, to those who use their spare time, helping others and raising funds for charity.

*Marilyn Grant*

You can contact us at Martlesham on 01473 611881 and at Kesgrave on 01473 631711