

September 2011

Dear Parents,

We are about to start our new school year here at the ECCDS and I am looking forward to seeing you and all your beautiful children again. The summer break has passed so quickly, it only seems like yesterday that we broke up for the holidays! However, the work of the Centre never stops and I, and the team, have been very busy planning ahead.

As an organisation, we have grown dramatically from when we first started back in September 2005. This last year has proven to be a significant one, in terms of the development of the charity and moving it forward.

We are delighted to have welcomed Dame Dela Smith as our new chairperson, and a huge thanks to Sandy King for all his work, passion and guidance as ECCDS first chair. Sandy will continue to play a huge role in the charity, concentrating on fundraising, which is his passion. As well as welcoming Dame Dela, we have also had 4 new trustees join us, all whom bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the charity.

In light of this new board of trustees, there has been a full review of all the charities activities, which has kept us all very busy. My job description has been reviewed and altered and I now have the title of Chief Executive. Whilst I will still be very much involved in the group sessions and school work, I now have the opportunity to be more involved in the strategic and business side of the organisation, something that I am really looking forward to.

Following the review the following points were agreed by the new board.

- **Session Fees.**

The payment and collection of session fees has been a bit erratic and has been highlighted as a cause for concern. Also our fees have remained unchanged over the years, despite ever increasing costs. In order to address these matters the following will be introduced from the start of the new Autumn term 2011.

- **Fees for all children**

Fees will be increased to **£20 per month [12 months]** and paid via a **Standing Order**; this will ensure the reliability of essential income and cut down on some of our administration costs. This works out at £6.31 per session.

Alternatively, if you wish to pay the year's fees in a one off payment, you will get a discount of one month. This means you will pay **£220** per year.

- **Additional sessions.**

We currently provide 36 sessions per school year for both the Friday & Saturday children. For the forthcoming year 38 sessions will be made available for our children. We have piloted additional educational summer activities this year and will continue to do the same next year.

I hope that you still continue to feel that the Centre offers great value for money in terms of supporting both you and your children. (If anyone has concerns about the increase in fees please contact me or Marie in confidence.)

On behalf of myself and the ECCDS team, thank you for your continued support. We have come such a long way in a relatively short time. There is still much to do, and exciting times ahead.

Kind regards

Maggie Hart
Chief Executive

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