



## NEWSLETTER 8 JANUARY 2019

Welcome back everyone - we hope you all had a relaxing Christmas break! Here's some news for the coming half term.

Welcome to our new children – Heath, Walker, Rory, William, Thomas, Ben and Kazimir.

### Term dates:

Spring term: Mon 7 Jan – Fri 15 Feb  
Mon 25 Feb – Fri 05 Apr  
Summer term: Tues 23 Apr – Fri 24 May  
Mon 03 Jun – Mon 22 July  
Bank holiday Mon 6 May

### Christmas presents

Thank you for all your lovely gifts and for the vouchers. It was very kind and we all really appreciate your good wishes.

### Contact details

Our contact details are:  
Landline: 01483 565343  
Mobile: 07510 254313  
Email: [info@childsplaypreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@childsplaypreschool.co.uk)

**Please put these numbers in your phone and please make sure we have your correct contact details, including any new mobile phone numbers**

### Christmas fundraising

We raised £270 from the raffle and the drinks evening - thank you everyone. The money will go directly to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

### Music

Rebecca was incredibly proud of all the children and the hard work they put into the ABC Nativity. They all worked so hard and really enjoyed performing. This half-term the children will be playing and singing songs all about the weather and seasons using percussion instruments that sound like rain/thunder etc. They will also learn all of the single letter Jolly Phonics sounds. Lots of fun!

### Parent consultations

Consultations for the established children will be in the week beginning 21 Jan. A sign up sheet will go

up next week. We will have consultations for new starters the first week after half term; a sign-up sheet to book a slot will be available in the last week of this half term.

### Ball Skills and Pyjama Drama

The Ball Skills session continues on a Monday afternoon with Ronnie and Danny. This term they will be introducing some Rugby skills.

The Pyjama Drama session continues on a Wednesday afternoon. Anthony and Ana-Maria have moved up to Yorkshire so we now have Vicky and Alex leading the sessions.

These sessions are paid for by us and we do not ask for a contribution from parents. We may not be able to continue this indefinitely.

### September 2019

It is still a long way off but we need to start planning for next year. We will shortly be asking those of you staying next year what sessions you will want for September so you might want to start thinking about that now. There will be some changes to the minimum time requirements, particularly around Forest School and 15 hours.

### Forest School session for younger children

We are considering the logistics of running a shorter Forest School session in the Summer term – potentially on a Friday morning. This would be within the morning session and would be for those children who may want to start full Forest School in September – it would be a way of introducing it to them gently and when the weather is warmer.

As things stand, such a session would not be viable. It will only be viable if all the children taking part, and in receipt of funded hours, are taking their full 15 hours allocation. So, for some of you that would mean adding an extra session in the Summer term.

If you would be interested in this session, could you drop us an email to register your interest.

### Intergenerational sessions

Intergenerational activities between older adults and pre-school children have had much media attention lately after the programme on Channel 4 “Old People’s Home for 4 Year Olds”. There was also an interesting article in yesterday’s “Observer” about the benefits for the children of such interactions, particularly with language development, reading and social skills. Guildford URC are launching a new programme to address loneliness and social isolation in the local

community, an issue which disproportionately affects older people, and have approached us about getting the children involved in some intergenerational sessions. This is still in the early stages of being worked out but we are really excited about it. We will give you more details once we have a better idea of how and when such sessions might operate.

### **Going home book/late book**

A reminder that if you know you are unable to collect your child, or your child is going home to play with someone else, it is very important that you write the name of the person who is going to collect your child in the "going home" book.

If, during the course of the morning, you find that you need to make alternative arrangements for collection you must ring us and tell us who will be picking up your child. We will then agree a password which this person will need to provide on collection. We will not be able to hand your child over without this.

### **Topics**

We will be focusing on Winter, including weather, recipes, changes and hibernation. There will be an animal related theme one week and there will be cooking every week.

This week we will be making Rice Krispie snowmen and spray painted snowmen.

We do need some items for a couple of the activities: we will be making a giant igloo one week so please bring in any empty 4 pint plastic milk containers in readiness for this; we also need palm sized stones to make paperweights.

Topics are always fairly fluid and we do want to focus on things that the children are interested in so if there is anything your child is particularly interested in then please do let us know and we will incorporate it to our planning.

### **Sound of the week**

Each week we will focus on a sound of the week.

The weekly letters will be:

7 Jan - "o" for orange

14 Jan - "p" for piano

21 Jan - "q" for quilt

28 Jan - "r" for rabbit

4 Feb - "s" and "c" for soap and circus

11 Feb - "t" for tiger

It would be great if the children could bring in items from home beginning with these sounds each week. They should put them in the labelled box by the kitchen area. We will talk about sound of the week at storytime.

### **Monthly Family project**

The theme for this board will change each month, and we will let you know the themes via Tapestry. For January it is Snowman paintings – collages, 2D, 3D, the choice is yours. The idea is that the children make a picture at home – any kind of picture they like – based around the monthly theme. We will display them all on the board to make a fabulous display of artwork.

### **Trays**

Please check your child's tray each morning when you drop off. We will endeavour to ensure they have everything from their tray at home time. If things hang around in trays for long periods they invariably get lost!

### **Uniform**

We still have one or two rucksacks (£19) and a good supply of short sleeved T-shirts (£6.50), long sleeved T-shirts (£9), and winter beanie hats (£6) – all in various colours. The children wearing the uniform look lovely – so please let us know if you would like to buy any. Drop us an email, or ask your key person, if you would like anything.

### **Illness**

Infectious conditions spread rapidly in a pre-school environment both to other children and to staff. Furthermore, when children come to pre-school ill they are generally miserable and unhappy which can often make the other children miserable and unhappy too. We will be sending children home this term if they are obviously unwell so please can you assist us by not bringing them in if they are ill.

### **Parking**

The usual reminder to only to park in the bays marked in white. The yellow marked bays are contract spaces and are all owned by someone – **you must not use these, even just for a few minutes.**

### **Invoices/free entitlement forms**

You will have had an invoice for the term and, for eligible children, forms to claim your Free Early Education (FEE). If you have any questions about your bill or the FEE please speak to Susan. All FEE form must be returned by **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

Please return forms promptly as late forms mean late payment, which affects our cashflow.

### **30 hours claims**

You must re-confirm your claim every 3 months. You will be prompted to do this via text or email from Childcare Choices. You should receive 3 reminders – 4 weeks before the due date/ 2 weeks before/ and on the due day. If you do not re-confirm, you will fall out of eligibility and will need to pay for the additional hours. So please keep an eye on this. Also, please be aware that there are some “phishing” emails out there asking parents to click on a link to re-confirm. HMRC have stated that they will never send you a link – you will always have to re-confirm via your Childcare Choices account.

Parents whose children turn three this term become eligible from the start of next term. Those who intend to claim **MUST** have applied via the Government’s website by **31 March**. But we urge you to apply as soon as possible as there have been problems with the website. You need to apply via:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

If you are eligible you will be given a code which you must give to us. At the start of term in April we will give you all the necessary forms to allow us to make your claim, but we can check your code at any point before that so let Susan know as soon as you get a code and we can make sure all is OK.

If you do not get this code by 31 March you will not be able to claim the additional 15 hours until September. As the scheme is run by HMRC the deadlines are absolute and there is nothing we or Surrey CC can do if you have not applied in time.

### **Homework books**

For the older children – those starting school in September – you are able to have a “homework book” to work on the sound of the week. You would take it home on your child’s last day of the week, work on next week’s sound over the weekend and bring it back in when your child is next in the following week. The children could draw pictures, find pictures in magazines to stick in etc all connected with the sound of the week. They would then bring it in and show it to the other children at storytime. There is no compulsion on this, but if you think your child would enjoy having a “homework book” let your key person know and they will get one for you.

### **Settling in**

We will be working hard to ensure that the new children settle in quickly. We want to make their time at pre-school as happy and enjoyable as possible for them. If you do have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to speak to one of us.

### **Reminders**

#### School Applications

The deadline for Primary applications for September 2019 is **15<sup>th</sup> January**. Please get your applications in by the deadline.

#### Forest School

It has got colder now so a reminder that all children **MUST** have gloves, hats, scarves etc in their Forest bags at all times.

### **And as always.....**

#### Food and drink

Please remember to bring a **named** water bottle - water only though please, no juice and a packed lunch. **No nuts of any kind please.**

And, please, please, can you make sure if your child has grapes (or tomatoes etc) that they are cut in half.

Also please ensure all coats, hats, gloves etc are **named**. We waste a lot of time trying to sort out un-named clothing and containers!

#### Birthdays

Please remember you need to bring cakes in for your own child’s birthday. It is probably a good idea to check with us the week prior to the birthday as there are sometimes weeks when birthdays coincide. We can then put you in touch with other parents to share the workload. We will need up to 25 cupcakes (but the number varies depending on which day of the week it is).

#### Toilets at drop off time

If your child needs the toilet at drop off can you either get them to go by themselves, or ask a member of staff to take them. We do not want parents going into the toilets as it can be uncomfortable for some children to have an adult who they do not know in the toilet area when they are going to the toilet.

### **Useful links**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the “Curriculum” we work to (as do all Early Years providers). Here is a Parents Guide to the EYFS

which includes simple explanations of the goals we use for each age group.

[https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/09/4/Children\\_ParentsGuide\\_Sept\\_2015v4WEB1.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/09/4/Children_ParentsGuide_Sept_2015v4WEB1.pdf)

Surrey Family Information Service – has lots of information on a range of issues eg education, childcare, support services.

<http://new.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/family-information-service>

In particular they have a useful booklet on “Getting Ready for School”:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/family-information-service/publications-for-families/getting-ready-for-school-booklet>

Also, Surrey Children’s Therapies which has lots of information on Speech and Language therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy resources.

<http://www.surreychildrenstherapies.co.uk/>

Surrey CC Early Years and Childcare Service have developed some lovely leaflets to provide parents with useful information on how you can support your child’s development. They cover speech, reading, counting, physical development, emotional development etc. and are well worth a look.

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/family-information-service/education-and-learning-advice-for-families/early-learning>

**Thea and Susan**