



## NEWSLETTER 5th SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome back to all our returning children, and a big "hello" to all our new children. Sorry this newsletter is very long but there's always a lot of information to give out to you at the start of a new year.

### Term Dates

Autumn term: Tues 4 Sept – Fri 19 Oct  
Mon 29 Oct – Mon 17 Dec

Spring term: Mon 7 Jan – Fri 15 Feb  
Mon 25 Feb – Fri 5 Apr

Summer term: Tues 23 Apr – Fri 24 May  
Mon 3 Jun – Mon 22 July  
Bank holiday Mon 6 May

### Our contact details

Landline: 01483 565343  
Mobile: 07510 254313  
[info@childsplaypreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@childsplaypreschool.co.uk)  
[www.childsplaypreschool.co.uk](http://www.childsplaypreschool.co.uk)

Please make sure we always have your up to date contact details. If you move/change your mobile/get a new childminder etc please tell us straight away. This also applies to the contact details we hold for your emergency contacts.

### Newsletters

We generally issue these half-termly. We don't have an office at Child's Play so copying newsletters is something we want to avoid. We therefore use email to distribute these to you. If you would like newsletters to be sent to a different email address to the one we have been using to communicate with you up to now; an additional address; or if you would like to receive a hard copy of the newsletters, please let us know using the attached form. Newsletters are also on the website.

### Session times

Early start: 8.30-9.00am  
Morning session: 9.00 – 12.45pm (doors open 8.50am)  
Extended Afternoon: 12.45 – 2.45pm  
(Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs)  
Afternoon session: 12.00 – 2.45pm  
(Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs)  
Forest School: 9.00 – 12.45pm  
(Tuesday)

### Forest school

Forest School begins **next week**. Natalie is our Forest School leader and will be accompanied (on a rota) by Mel, Katy and Roxy. Nuria will also assist at Forest School sessions. Nuria is Ramon's au pair and is a qualified Early Years Teacher in Spain – we are delighted to have her as a helper. Please speak to Natalie if you have any questions.

Children **must** come properly dressed – long sleeves; long trousers (not leggings); waterproofs (even if it doesn't rain they are often needed for sliding down the sandbanks!); sturdy shoes or walking boots. Those of you doing Forest School must familiarize yourself with the Parent Information booklet which is available on the website (this contains a full kit list). And you must return the permission slip.

### Uniform items

We have had some Child's Play t-shirts made up. They are available to buy at a cost of £9 for long-sleeved and £6.50 for short-sleeved. We have a few different colours available – red, blue, purple, grey.

We also have some forest school backpacks still available if anyone needs one (£19); and also some woolly hats (£6).

### Extra sessions

We have some morning sessions available so if you would like any extra sessions please let us know asap. Afternoons are also available.

If you think you will want to increase hours over the course of the year e.g, as you become eligible for free hours, please let us know. We can hold spaces open if we know they will be needed.

### Afternoon sessions

The afternoon sessions now finish at **2.45pm**.

As the afternoon sessions are now shorter than last year the children no longer need to bring in an afternoon snack.

We have the following activities lined up for the afternoons:

Monday – Ball Skills with Ronny and Danny the Blackheath Cricket coaches.  
<https://www.matchfitacademy.com/>

Wednesday – Pyjama Drama with Anthony and Ana-Maria.  
<https://www.pyjamadrama.com/uk/>

These activities were both very popular with the children last year. All children who attend on these afternoons will be able to take part; we cover the cost of both activities.

### **Music**

Music starts this week - your invoice states which day your child is doing music. For music we ask for a contribution of £3.50 per session. If the cost is a problem, please speak to one of us.

The classes are grouped so generally speaking the younger children are together and those who are older and did music last year are together. Rebecca is really excited about welcoming all the new children to music and is looking forward to lots of fun in music this half term.

This half term the children will be learning about rhythm and timing using wooden Percussion instruments. They will be concentrating on single Jolly Phonics sounds and the older children will be learning a fun song all about telling the time.

### **30 hours Free Childcare / Tax Free Childcare**

Some families are now eligible for up to 30 hours of free childcare. All 3 and 4 year olds continue to receive the basic 15 hours; working families can claim an additional (up to) 15. To find out if you are eligible you must use the following website:

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

Parents must obtain eligibility codes from this website before the term they wish to claim. Parents wanting to claim for this term had to have obtained their code by 31 August. So parents whose children become eligible in January will have to get the code by 31 December, but you should do it sooner rather than later..

Parents must re-check their eligibility every 3 months. You will receive an email or text reminder to do this. If you don't you may fall out of eligibility and will have to pay for your sessions. Please bear in mind that this scheme is administered by Central Government. Deadlines will be absolute, and there will be nothing we can do to help you if you do not apply in time or do not re-check your codes.

Tax Free Childcare is a Government run scheme, similar to the existing voucher schemes which some employers offer. It is open to working families and will be beneficial to anyone not currently in a voucher scheme.

### **Learning Journeys/Tapestry**

Your child's key person will maintain your child's Learning Journey using "Tapestry". New starters

have all had a letter explaining how this works and you have been sent an email with a link to activate your account. Not everyone has done this so please check your spam folders for the link. Unless you activate your account, you won't be able to access your child's file.

We want very much for these Learning Journeys to be worked on in partnership with you. It's not just about what your children do at pre-school, but how they are developing as a whole. As the children spend more time at home than at pre-school, your observations of your children's development are very important. Tapestry enables you to comment on the observations made by your key person and also to make observations of your own to pass on to us.

### **Parent consultations**

Our first parent's consultation session will be for the new children only, to discuss how they are settling in. That will be in week 4. We will put a sign up sheet the week before and will notify you via Tapestry.

Going forward we will hold termly parents' consultation sessions where staff will be available to discuss your child's progress with you. If you feel you want more frequent meetings, that is absolutely fine, just speak to your key person about it. The first full consultation session will be in the second half term.

### **Existing injuries**

We have an "existing injuries book". If your child comes to pre-school with an injury e.g. bruised knee, cut finger etc. we have to record it. We have a form for this so if you could let one of us know – preferably your key person – as soon as you arrive at pre-school that would be very helpful.

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

If you are planning to collect your child early, you need to record this in the "going home" book. 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.

### **Registration procedure**

The gates will open at 08.50 and children will find their name and post it in the post box. One member of staff will meet and greet and another will register your child's arrival. Once you have hung up their coat; put their water bottle in the box; lunch on the trolley etc, you are free to say goodbye and go. We will call the children into the side room at around 9 which will be the cut off point for any parents who have not yet left to do so. Parents of new children who are still settling in are welcome to stay a bit later if that is helpful, but generally we find the children settle more quickly if parents leave by 9am. Please try to check your child's tray every morning – that is where we put all the information you need and all of your children's work.

### **Topics/Festivals we are covering**

We don't have a fixed timetable for the topics we cover - we like to keep it flexible so we can be guided by what the children want to do. But as an indication, over the year we hope to cover things like all about me, seasons (as they happen), on the farm, shapes and numbers, healthy eating, summer and seaside, book week and lots of festivals such as Bonfire night, and of course Christmas! We will let you know through Tapestry and Twitter what we are doing each week and will ask if we want you to bring anything into pre-school. We always love parents to get involved in topics and festivals – it makes them more real and relevant to the children. If you have specific festivals you would like us to celebrate or ideas for things for the children to do/make, or if you would like to help in any way, please let us know.

### **Self-Improvement board**

We are going to put up a "self-improvement" board which we hope will act as a continuing focus for development. At Child's Play we aim to provide the best pre-school we possibly can, but we can't do that without continually striving to find ways to improve/develop what we do. We want to do that in partnership with you.

As a starting point, the board will give our views of what we think we're good at and what we want to improve, with a targeted plan for the term to improve something we have identified as a development goal.

This will be a "living document" and we want parents to add to it, at any point. You can suggest things we do well and you can also suggest things you'd like us to work on, or try out for new. You will be able to either write it on the board directly, or send us a message and ask us to add it.

We'll see how it goes and hopefully we can work together to make things as best as they possibly can be!

### **"Starry Sky" – celebrating growing independence**

We want to make sure we really celebrate the small but important achievements the children make as they develop their independence and become more self-confident. Our idea to do this is via a new "Starry Sky" display. We will give the children "stars" at Pre-school to put on the tree when they do something fantastic – it could be: listening nicely in storytime; eating all their lunch for the first time; being kind; going to the toilet; tidying up nicely; putting their own coat on etc etc. We also want you to use it to celebrate the great things the children do at home. The display will be on the notice board by the coat pegs with a bag of stars attached (star shaped post-it notes). You don't have to check with us before writing a star for your child, but please discuss it with your child at home when they do something brilliant and write the star with them. They can then tell us about it – if they want to.

### **Starting school**

You should already have the information you need to submit your application. If you don't we can try to point you in the right direction.

We work closely with St Nics and hope to organise a visit from the new Head teacher, so you can have the opportunity to find out more about the school and the admissions procedure. We also hope to arrange for the Head teacher from Onslow Infants to come along for an informal meeting with interested parents.

In the admissions process there is an option for summer born children to defer their school start date to the next academic year. If this is something which you may be considering, we would urge you to speak to us sooner rather than later so we can work together to make sure you have all the information you need to make the right decision.

### **Website**

All of our newsletters, policies and procedures etc are available on the website as is our Forest School information book and our Mission Statement. These are also available at pre-school each day. We strongly urge all parents to familiarise themselves with these.

### **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 20-30 cupcakes (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.

## **GETTING INVOLVED**

### **Parent Rota**

One of the key ways you can get involved is to offer to help out during a session. Helping out at pre-school lets you see what goes on and is a really good way to see what your child gets up to! Just let us know if you'd like to come in for a session or two. Parent helpers will also be very welcome at Forest School sessions.

Last year a couple of parents volunteered to run weekly "Library" sessions for us. If anyone would like to take this on this year we'd love to hear from you.

### **Charity project**

We like to support charities with a personal connection to the pre-school. Last year we supported Cherry Trees – a local respite care centre. Previously we have supported Charlie's Angels - a small charity, founded locally, to raise funds for research into MS, as well as Guildford Action, Make a Wish, The Evelina Children's Hospital; and Save the Children. We generally have Christmas and summer parties either at Thea's house or a parent's house and a Christmas raffle to raise money. Let us know if you have any suggested Charity for us to support this year.

### **Lunch club**

Last year a small group of parents organised a "lunch club" whereby they took turns to prepare lunches for the children in the club. That meant the children in the club had a very varied menu and individual parents didn't have to make lunches every day. In order to keep the group going this year they need a couple more parents to join.

If you are interested in joining in, please contact Elisenda (Ramon's Mum):

[ebonet.carne@gmail.com](mailto:ebonet.carne@gmail.com)

Whatsapp on: +34 607 730 687

Phone number (no whatsapp): 07478778881

## **OTHER ISSUES**

### **Parking**

It is very important that you park only in the white bays – the yellow ones are contract spaces and **must not be used – not even for a few minutes.** You may only use the car park at drop off and pick up times. Last year a number of parents were regularly parking in the yellow bays which led to problems with the Church. We risk losing our parking privileges if parents don't stick to the rules so please only park in the white spaces.

### **Safeguarding - important**

A reminder of a few important new updates which we need to pass on to you:

- Parents must not use their mobile phones at all while in pre-school. If you get a call you will need to go outside to answer it. Nor may you take photos in pre-school. There will be a sign up in the hall to remind you.
- We must ring you if your child does not come to pre-school and we have not been told why in advance. If we cannot get hold of you we will ring your "Emergency Contact". So please make sure you let us know about holidays and ring us as soon as you know your child is ill. We have been advised that if we cannot get hold of parents and we have not been told that your child will be absent, that we ought to ring the Police (in case something has happened to you). This sounds heavy handed and it is something we would only do very reluctantly so please, please do tell us if your child is ill or is going to be off for any reason. It is perfectly fine to have days off, we just need to know.
- We cannot allow children to be taken home by an adult who we believe to have been drinking alcohol.

### **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 forms must be returned by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Going home Ted**

We have 3 "birthday" bears who will take it in turn to go home with a different birthday child each week. You will be given some paper on which to record where Ted has been and what he's done, including photos, drawings etc. We will keep an album out on display with all his travel notes in! He can also go home with you if you have a special event –

wedding; holiday etc, so please let us know and we will sent Ted home with you.

### Letter/sound of the week

Each week we will focus on a sound of the week. We will start next week once the children have all settled in, so the weekly letters will be:

10 Sept – “a” for apple

17 Sept – “b” for bat

24 Sept – “c” and “k” for cat/kitten

1 Oct – “d” for dog

8 Oct – “e” for elephant (not eyes etc)

15 Oct – “f” for farm

It would be great if the children could bring in items from home beginning with these sounds each week – please can you name them. We have a yellow tray at the top counter to put things in – they will be returned at the end of the day. We will talk about sound of the week at story time.

### Homework books

For the older children – those starting school next year – 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

#### Food and drink

Please remember to bring a named water bottle - water only though please, no juice; a piece of fruit each day (if you don’t want your child to have the carrot/cheese option) and a packed lunch. **No nuts of any kind please.**

What to bring for lunch:

Healthy eating is an issue which early years settings are expected to actively promote among children and parents. As we don’t provide any food ourselves, there is a limit to how much direct input

we can have, but we need to be actively involved in promoting healthy snacks and packed lunches. The main message is to make sure it is balanced – it is not necessary to avoid all sugars and fats – they are necessary for growing children in the right proportion. But processed foods with lots of added salt – such as crisps - are not encouraged. Also, try to keep the portion sizes suitable for 3/4 year olds.

We do plan to have a “Healthy Eating” topic this half term and will have a visit (probably one Tuesday afternoon) from the new Fruit and Veg Specialist at Waitrose who wants to come to talk to the children about healthy eating. Should be fun.

### Other reminders

Also, please remember a coat; spare clothes if possible (and nappy if needed); and please check your child’s tray each day. **And please, please, please can you name everything – including shoes!**

There are loads of name label providers out there, but you can also get name stampers made, which are quick and versatile:

[www.stampstastic.co.uk](http://www.stampstastic.co.uk)

Also, please remember, while pick up and drop off times can be busy, your child’s key person is always available to offer help and advice. If you have any questions/concerns/information to pass on, please just grab one of us. We are always available. We do not want anyone going home thinking they haven’t been able to speak to one of us.

### Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter; we try to tweet daily on what the children are up to. Use the link on the “contact” page on our website.

<http://www.childsplaypreschool.co.uk/contact-us/>

We are a closed group – only open to current parents - so you need to request access. If your Twitter ID is not your name – for instance a work account – can you also email us to let us know as we will only accept requests from names that we recognise.

### 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/2015/09/4C\\_hildren\\_ParentsGuide\\_Sept\\_2015v4WEB1.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/09/4C_hildren_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>

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**

**NEWSLETTERS**

I want to receive newsletters via **email**.

Child's name:.....

Parent's names:.....

E-mail addresses (if different to that already held)

.....

.....

Please include the addresses for all parents/carers who want to receive copies.

**Or**

I want to receive hard copies of newsletters (these may not be distributed on the same day as they are emailed)

Child's name:.....

**RETURN BY FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**