

Newsletter

January 2018

Happy New Year to You All!

We hope you had a fantastic Christmas - with lots of pressies and chocolate! I bet all Parents are now breathing a sigh of relief that it's all over - apart from paying for it! The children really did have a lovely time in the run up towards Christmas, making all of their Christmas goodies. Now we are in 2018 and wondering where on earth 2017 went!

Illness's

Oh my word! - I think we had every childhood illness going around at one point (we have never seen it so bad). The Norovirus really took its toll on both children and staff (unfortunately, passing it on to all other family members). We had to become very strict with our sending home of ill children - as well as the added Deep Cleaning procedures we had to put in place (all of this was on the advice and guidance of Health Protection England & Somerset County Council). In fact we came extremely close to having to close areas of our care due to staff of ill - but it hasn't happened yet and I hope it doesn't come to that. We have updated our Contingency Policy due to recent events - copies are in Reception for you to see.

Tough decisions have been made on what would happen if we did not have enough staff to maintain child/adult ratios. Of course this is a last resort and something we really would not want to do - but feel we needed a 'fair' system where everyone is clear about our procedures. We would have to ask Parents to collect their children and take them home -

- Our first point of contact would be Parents who were not working and their children attended for social reasons only.
- Our second point of contact would be Parents of children who are accessing the Early Years Entitlement.
- Our third (and last) point of contact would be all Parents of children in all areas of care.

There will be 'no charges' for children who are sent home. Children who access the EY Entitlement will have the opportunity to make up the funded hours.

IMPORTANT INFO:

We currently have a child attending Dolphins with several Serious Medical Conditions - which means they have an extremely low threshold when it comes to fighting off illness's and infections - please may we ask Parents to help prevent the spread of such ailments by keeping their child at home if they are unwell. Many thanks!

Christmas Party

It really was lovely to see all the families there, it was nice to get together and have a chance to chat to you all. We did have a couple of 'blips' - it was quite chilly to begin with as the heating had broke, but we all soon warmed up! Then we had the spectacular fall by the DJ (who eventually gave in and went to the hospital after he had finished). All that mattered really was that the children had fun.

We understand there were a few disappointed children with regards to the balloon modelling (he usually brings ones already made as he knows the numbers we have) - so apologies to those who didn't get one, plus the fact that we are limited on time. We will address this for next year for definite.

Spotacular

We are truly amazed as once again you wonderful Parents have raised a huge amount - thank-you so very much, we are very proud of you! The final total being £639.00 - that is an awful lot of money which will go to a very deserving charity.

Christmas Jumper

Another fund raising event took place on Friday 15th December (apologies, as both this and the spotacular are very close). We had some brilliant jumpers, it was lovely to see! We also raised over £73.00 - once again well done to you all!

30 Hours

Please ensure you log on and confirm your eligibility every 3 months. You do not have to go through the whole registration again - they just need your confirmation that situations haven't changed.

Stay & Play

Although only a few Parents attended it was lovely to see them involved in their child's play. Parents feedback was extremely positive and that they found it helpful to see who their children's friends were and put faces to names. It also helped the Parents understand when their children talked about the environment, routines and resources.

As we will be holding Stay & Play sessions every half term we hope to see more of you attend and join in with your children's play. The next Stay & Play session is **Tuesday 23rd January 2018 - 9am till 10am.**

Open Morning

Is booked for **Tuesday 6th February from 9.30 - 11.30am.**

(Apologies for the double cancellation - hopefully everything will be good to go by then)

Our Open Morning is for anyone who would like to come and have a look around our setting and gain some knowledge and information of the care we provide.

Staff

We have had to say good-bye to Amy Chadwick and Rhiannon Roberts - both have gone on to continue their career elsewhere. We hope you will join us in welcoming Emily Huish-May and Dawn Jeffreys who will be joining the team in Pre-School. We have had a slight change round of staff - Jo Cosens will be joining the team in the Toddler Room & Danny Frazer will be generally in between Toddler and Pre-School rooms. Kelly has been promoted to Deputy in the Nursery Room.

Sports Training - Pre-School

Will be taking place on **Thursdays** this half term.

Resource Library (home share bags)

Please see your child's Key Worker if you and your child would like to share in these activities at home. If anyone still has one of our Home Share Bags at home, please may we ask that you return as soon as possible.

Fees - Cash

If you are paying with cash - please may we ask that you put it in a named envelope

New Menu

Our new Winter Menu will follow during the months of January, February & March.

Warm Winter Clothing

Please may we remind Parents that children are out in all weathers and ensuring they have the correct clothing is essential - especially as we have already experienced some very cold weather.

February Holiday Club -

Is from **Monday 12th to Friday 16th February.** If you require any care for this period, please book as soon as possible.

Kind Regards - Sharon, Di & the Team