



## Newsletter - November 2018

Hi

**Yes, it's the start of that exciting, fun filled, costly craziness that is Christmas!**

We have had an amazing start to the new term and the children have settled in brilliantly - it really is lovely to see them happy and enjoying their time in the setting, especially as most children have moved into different rooms. Children have really enjoyed our Term Topic as well as the free play opportunities and experiences offered. I am sure they are going to love this terms topic as we will be celebrating all the events in and around the local area. We will also be taking part in our annual charity events like Children in Need - 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November (and Pudsey) as well as Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December

### Diabetes Awareness Week

We would like to say a huge thank-you for all your support in raising funds towards much needed research into Diabetes. You raised an amazing **£418.00!**

### Stay & Play

It was lovely to see the Parents who attended our first session of the Autumn term. The date for our next one is **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

### Parents Meetings - reminder

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November.** Please see your child's Key Worker to book an appointment

### Healthy Packed Lunches

We always try to promote healthy attitudes when it comes to food, exercise and sleep. With this in mind please may we ask Parents to be a little more aware of how much they are putting in children's lunch boxes (*realistic amount to eat in one sitting*). Children only have a relatively short space of time in which to eat their lunch but we are finding they are really struggling. We're also seeing a rise in concentrated fruit bars, chocolate, cakes ect being put into lunch boxes - we've seen some with as many as 5 biscuits/ cakes/chocolate bars and nothing else!

### Grapes - reminder

Public Health England recommend that grapes should be cut in half (*lengthways*) in order to eliminate the possible dangers of choking for young children. If you are putting grapes in your child's lunch box, please may we ask that you cut them ready for them to eat.

### Peanut Butter

Unless your child will eat nothing else in their sandwiches, again, please may we ask that you do not use peanut butter. We have a child attending Dolphins at the moment who is severely allergic (*life threatening*) - even to touch.

### Warm Winter Clothing

Please ensure children are suitably dressed (coats) for this time of year (*coats, sweaters, footwear ect*) - we go out and play in all weathers. Please ensure all clothing items have names in

### Children's Christmas Party

North Petherton Community Hall on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 11am till 1pm.** This is a lovely time where we can all get together & have some fun with our musical entertainment, have some food and really get into the Christmas spirit! Tickets will be on sale the beginning of December and are **£1.00 each.**

### Payment of Fees - reminder

All payments for fees will need to be sent via BACS (on-line banking) unless paying through a nominated voucher scheme. We will only accept cash for any extra's you may have incurred (*we do not hold any cash on site now so if change is needed then we will take off next months invoice*)

### Changes to Days and Times

From January 2019 any changes to your agreed days/hours/sessions (*no matter how small a change*) - will require **1 months written notice** - email or letter.

### Staff

Our new members of staff have settled in amazingly and have now built strong committed teams, ready to bring new ideas and experiences for the children. Unfortunately we have had to say farewell to Megan McLaughlin (*Megan decided to return to her previous smaller setting*) which means we have had a slight change around in staff deployment. Becky Curry has taken over as Room Leader in the Toddler Room, with Amber Cresswell taking on the Deputy role. Rebecca Hole has taken over as Deputy in the Pre-School. We have 2 new members of staff in the Pre-School - Dana Holland and Karen Fraser, we hope you will join us welcoming them to the team.

We have had quite a turbulent year with staff turnover (*something all settings go through at some point and unfortunately this past year has been ours*) - we would however like to assure everyone that our commitment to providing good quality care is always at the heart of our delivery.

Michelle has begun to take over more managerial duties, leading up to her full Manager role January 2019 (*working along with Sarah*)

### Room Information Booklets

From January we will now longer be giving these out with Key Workers and Buddy's pictures in (*due to staff changes they can be difficult to keep updated, plus our new system should ensure you are personally introduced to staff members looking after your child*). Parents will only receive Room Information Booklets each time their child moves into a different room.

### Pre-School & our School Readiness Programme

#### Spring Term (January 2019)

Children have settled into Pre-school brilliantly - they are happy, confident and eager to learn and explore. They will be beginning to be aware that changes will occur later on in the year - September, and their impending next steps and start to school life

#### Areas we will be concentrating on -

- \* Develop overall independence.
- \* Further develop listening skills through a range of activities.
- \* Cement the process of getting dressed/undressed for P.E. Sessions
- \* Talk about 'changes' and introduce and explain all about 'Going to School'
- \* Further develop their listening and attention skills as well as 'following simple instructions'.

The main changes you will notice is -

- Children will **NOT** be receiving Daily Diaries
- Due to the information now being accessible on Tapestry for Parents, we will **NOT** be doing All About Me books in future.

### Christmas Closing and Holiday Club

Last day of term is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December

We are **CLOSED** from **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019** (*inclusive*).

We are open for Holiday Club and children who attend all-year-round on -

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January.** If you require any care during this time, please book as soon as you can as spaces are limited

Term starts back on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January for everyone else.

Kind Regards

Sharon, Di, Michelle and the Team

