



Little Fishes Preschool – Newsletter September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and welcome you back to the new term. We would also like to welcome our new families – we hope you enjoy your time with us. We would like to thank everyone for our gifts, cards and very kind messages at the end of last term – we are all extremely grateful.

Collection of children

We would just like to take this opportunity to remind you that we ask children to stay sitting on their seats until their parent or carer collects them **from their chair**. Although a member of staff is on the outer door and when possible, a member of staff is on the inner door, this practise helps to ensure that your children stay safe. We would be very grateful of your support and reinforcement in this matter. If you will be late, please let a practitioner know at the beginning of the session or ring during the session to let us know. If we don't hear anything by 12:15 we will ring round emergency contacts and if we have not been able to contact anyone by 12:30 we will have to ring the authorities.

Individual portfolios

We are required to gather evidence on your child's development by way of photographs, jottings and art work etc. that your child produces. This is kept in a portfolio which will be given to you and your child when they leave Little Fishes pre-school. In the meantime, you are very welcome to view it at **any time**. Please feel free to ask your child's keyworker if you would like to spend some time at the beginning or end of a session to view it.

Staffing

Due to lower numbers of children, and as a necessary cost-saving exercise, not all staff will be in every day this term. Each week, the full-time staff members (Vicki, Sarah, Gwynneth and Georgie) will take one day off (the day will vary each week). Please be assured that our adult to child ratio remains the same and it will not affect the care given to your children. However, it will mean that if you need to speak to a member of staff when you arrive in the morning, this conversation will have to be brief and take place in the pre-school room as we will need to stay in the room in order to safeguard the children in our care. Therefore, where possible, could we kindly ask that you make an appointment to talk to a member of staff so that we can arrange cover in order to give you the time that you require. Thank you.

Food and drink

May we politely request that **no** food or drink is left in the cloakrooms in children's bags, please. This is purely for health and safety reasons. If you have any queries regarding this, please see a member of staff. Thank you.

Coffee and chat – Thursday 6th October

Please remember our coffee and chat sessions run by Jen Oldham and Mary de Frates. This is your chance to meet and chat to other parents and to have your say in how the pre-school is run. Please keep an eye out on the Coffee and Chat noticeboard and in your child's drawer for letters about the next Coffee and Chat session on Thursday 6th October. For more information, please see a member of staff.

Little Fishes Facebook Pages

Little Fishes Pre-school (littlefishespreschoolbrackley) is our official Facebook page, where we will post helpful reminders and information.

LF come & play is a private group open only to parents of children who attend Little Fishes Pre-school. If you would like to join the group or find out more about it, please see a member of staff who can point you in the direction of Jen Oldham or Mary de Frates who can answer your questions and add you to the group!

Open door policy

We operate an open door policy at pre-school, which means that we welcome parents to join us for sessions to lend their expertise, help with toast (there will be a rota to sign up for in the entrance hall) or simply come and play. You do not have to arrange this in advance you can just tell us that you're staying when you bring your child or children in. Please note, however, that younger siblings are not allowed to stay with you as we are only covered for two and half to five year olds!

Speed Limit in car parking area

We would like to politely remind you of the **10 MPH speed limit** in our car park. We have received a number of reports of parents driving at speed and without due care and attention on the road into the car park and on the car park area. It is extremely important to protect the safety of our children, so we regard this as a serious matter. Therefore should individuals not keep to the speed limit or drive without due care or attention in the car park, they will be respectfully asked to park at the front of the church and walk around the back to collect their child.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) information session

On Thursday 22nd September, there will be an opportunity to find out what the EYFS is, how it affects your child and an opportunity to ask any questions. The session will start as soon as possible after the 9am drop off time and will be held in the Church. If your child does not usually attend on this day, you are still welcome to come along to the session, but your child will have to stay with you. If you would like to attend, please fill in the form at the end of the letter and return it as soon as possible, so that we can get an idea of numbers. Thank you.

Thank you for all your continued support,

The Little Fishes Team.

Contact details: Telephone : 01280 705295 (during session times)
Email : manager@littlefishesbrackley.org.uk

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I will / will not* be attending the Early Years Foundation Stage Information session on Thursday 22nd September 2016 at 9.00am

Signed..... Date:.....

***please delete as appropriate**