

Broadhall Bunnies Preschool

Newsletter November 2015

Parent consultations

Thank you to all of you who came to our recent parent consultations. Our next consultations will be in May next year; however, key workers are always at hand at the end of every session if you have any questions about your child's progress.

Ofsted

As many of you already know we had a visit from Ofsted earlier this month. We are delighted to say that everything went very well; we had some lovely feedback from the Ofsted inspector and from all the parents that she spoke to during her visit. We are awaiting our written report and you will all be provided a copy of it as soon as possible.

A very big thank you to the fantastic team here at Bunnies for all their hard work, without you all our preschool would not be such a special place.

Staff

Just a reminder as to who is who!

Rachel, (BA Hons Education Studies – Early Years) preschool leader and SENco

Anna, (level 3 Childcare Learning and Development CCLD) deputy leader and monkey group key worker

Amy, (level 3 CCLD) SENco and zebra group key worker

Jane, (level 2 CCLD) tiger group key worker

Shelley, (level2 CCLD) giraffe group key worker

Fiona, (level 3 CCLD) preschool assistant

Dawn, (level 3 CCLD) preschool assistant

Kerry, 121 support worker and preschool assistant

Hannah, volunteer preschool assistant

Shannon, NHC placement student

All paid staff hold current child protection certificates and all key staff are paediatric first aid trained.

Term dates

Please note we have a couple of changes to our term dates.

Following discussions with parents and carers we are changing our end of term dates to enable us to include Christmas parties for all the children.

Our last 'normal' session and lunch club will now be on Wednesday 16th December. Thursday 17th December and

Friday 18th December will be our Christmas party days. Individual invitations will follow soon.

Next spring Monday 22nd February will now be an inset day to enable essential staff training to take place.

Parking

Please note that there is no allocated parking in the school grounds for children at Broadhall Bunnies Preschool or Featherstone Wood School. We request that parents park cars either opposite the play centre on Featherston Road or at The Hyde shops. If you walk to school and wish to leave a buggy for collection later please leave it by the brick wall alongside Bunnies.

Home time

Could parents/carers please stand clear of our doorway and windows whilst waiting to collect children at home time as some of our children can find it distressing if they can see you waiting outside.

Tea towels

This term we have created a unique tea towel to which all of the children have contributed. They make lovely mementoes of your child's time at preschool and are unique Christmas presents for family and friends. They cost just £4.00 each. Orders are being taken now.

Smartie challenge

Smartie boxes are due back by Friday 20th November for all of you who have risen to the challenge.

Pine cones

If you are out and about in the countryside and see any pine cones please collect them for us, we use lots and lots for our Christmas crafts.

Fees

We have reviewed our likely running costs and income and, for the first time since April 2013 we have found it necessary to review our fees to remain viable. This has been brought about by the impending minimum wage increase and the upcoming introduction of the national living wage. Additionally, despite the relatively low level of inflation, our running costs have increased significantly. We regret that in order to stand still, we will be raising our

Broadhall Bunnies Preschool

Newsletter November 2015

session fees to £12.00 from January 2016. Lunch clubs will also increase to £3.50 per hour. Fees will be reviewed annually and you will be notified of any changes before they come into effect.

There is funding available for children the term after they turn 2, this is dependent on your family circumstances and income. Please check

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/css/flexyears/freearlyeduc/apply2yroidplace/> if you think that you might be eligible or speak to Rachel in confidence. All children are entitled to 15 hours free at preschool the term after they turn 3.

Just a reminder, all fees are due in advance at the start of each week, or, if you prefer they can be paid in advance monthly or half termly. Non payment may lead to your child's place being wholly or partially withdrawn. We will attempt to recover all unpaid debts and will take legal action in necessary.

Snow

Just in case we have some of the white stuff..... on occasion following heavy snow the school site is closed if the children's safety cannot be guaranteed. If the main school is closed we will also be closed. Notifications will be placed on the main school website, the preschool website www.broadhallbunnies.co.uk and on our Facebook page as soon as possible. In case of doubt the preschool phone is manned after 8.30 every morning.

Labels and changing bags

Please ensure that all items of clothing coming to preschool are clearly labelled with your child's name.

We are always happy to change nappies etc at pre-school; however parents MUST provide all the necessary equipment in a clearly labelled bag. Please ensure that changing bags have adequate supplies in each day including wipes, nappy sacks and nappies. Please also make sure that there are no creams, lotions or potions left in your child's changing bag. If for any reason they need to come to school with your child please hand them to a member of staff in the morning for safe keeping.

Providing items that are missing from bags, especially wipes and nappy sacks has incurred a huge increase on our running costs; as a consequence of this a small charge is made for items that are regularly used from our stock.

January lunch clubs

We have already had a lot of interest in lunch club places for the January term; existing lunch club days will be added to our January list; please speak to Rachel or Anna to book additional lunch club places or to make any changes to days. **Please note that the last lunch club this term is now on Wednesday 16th December.**

Dates for your diary

Friday 11th December – Christmas jumper day fundraising event

Wednesday 16th December – last normal session – last lunch club

Thursday and Friday 17th and 18th December – Christmas parties – individual invitations will follow in due course.

Tuesday 5th January – preschool reopens.

Wednesday 6th January – lunch clubs resume

Friday 12th February – break up for half term

Monday 22nd February – Inset day – staff training

Wednesday 24th February – Staff training, no lunch club

Friday 25th March – Good Friday – Preschool shut

Monday 28th March – Easter Monday – preschool shut

Friday 1st April – last day of term

– lunch club closes at 1pm

Monday 18th April – Inset day – preschool closed

Tuesday 19th April – preschool reopens

Thursday 21st April – no lunch club, staff training

Monday 2nd May – Bank holiday – preschool shut

May 2016 – parent consultations, date to be confirmed

Friday 27th May – break up for half term

Monday 6th June – Inset day

July 2016 – Teddy bears' picnic – date to be confirmed

Friday 22nd July – End of term (TBC)

Broadhall Bunnies Preschool
Newsletter November 2015