

# Bunnies Preschool

## Newsletter September 2017

### Welcome back

We hope you have all had a lovely restful summer break, we are all looking forward to the term ahead of us, saying hello again to all the familiar faces that are returning to us this term and welcoming all of our new children and families who will be starting with us over the next few weeks.

### Curriculum guidance

This terms curriculum guidance will be out in the next couple of days. Please check your child's drawer for your copy; you will also be able to find it on our website

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

### 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

Sherrie, (CCLD level 3) SENco and Koala group key worker

Jane, (level 2, working towards level 3) tiger group key worker

Louise, (Level2, working towards level 3) Giraffe group key worker

Dawn, (level 3 CCLD) preschool assistant

Kerry, 121 support worker and preschool assistant

Hannah, preschool assistant – currently on maternity leave

Fabs, volunteer preschool assistant – working towards level 2

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

### Parking

Please note that there is no allocated parking in the school grounds for children at 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.

### Snack time

Each day at preschool we offer the children a choice of two or three different fruits or vegetables at snack time plus either milk or water to drink. In an effort to keep our fees down, parents are asked to contribute £5.00 per half term towards these costs.

Fee paying children will see this added onto their invoices at the start of each half term, and funded children will be asked to make voluntary contributions.

### Grapes

Current advice is for grapes to be cut in half *lengthways* to make them easier for children to eat and to reduce choking hazards. Please, if you are providing grapes in your child's lunch box, make sure that they are chopped to reduce hazards.

### Head lice

We had a couple of cases of head lice reported to us towards the end of the summer term. Please check your child's hair regularly and carefully to stop this problem from recurring this term. We recommend using a nit comb on damp conditioned hair rather than using chemicals.

### Sickness and diarrhoea

In line with advice from the NHS children *should* be kept off school for at least 48 hours after the last symptoms of sickness or diarrhoea have passed. Please see the attached sheet from the NHS website with more advice about common childhood illnesses and schools. The web page can be accessed at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx>

### Fees

We have reviewed our likely running costs and income and we are pleased to say that up to April 2018 our fees will remain the same; morning sessions are £12.00 per 3 hour session whilst lunch clubs are charged by the hour at £4.00 p/h.

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.

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/freeearlyeduc/apply2yrolplace/> if you think that you might

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be eligible or speak to Rachel in confidence. All children are entitled to 15 hours free at preschool the term after they turn 3. Please note: we are unable to increase funded hours midterm.

### Lunch clubs

Please note: in line with our morning sessions policies, 2 week's notice of changes to lunch clubs will be required. *Booked lunch club sessions will be charged for if your child is absent as our running costs remain the same.* Occasional lunch clubs can be booked on a daily basis (space permitting) and must be paid for on the day.

### 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. All of our children can access their changing bags throughout the session and such items can present a hazard to the children's health and safety.** 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.**

### September lunch clubs

We have already had a lot of interest in lunch club places for this term; please speak to Rachel or Anna to book lunch club places or to make any changes to days.

### Proud Clouds

Here at preschool we get as excited as you do watching your child grow and develop, and we would like to celebrate all of their achievements whether they happen here in school or at home with you. 'Proud Clouds' can tell us of anything of interest that you'd like to share with us, for example your child's favourite bedtime story, the first time they tried to ride a bike, or the first time they tried a new food and liked it. Attached is a sheet of proud clouds for you to use when you wish. Please hand a completed cloud to a member of staff whenever you would like to share one; we will then share it with the children at carpet time celebrating your child's achievements and add it to our

'Proud Cloud' display in the classroom. At the end of term all of your Proud Clouds will be included in your child's learning journal.

### 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.bunniespreschool.co.uk](http://www.bunniespreschool.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.

### Dates for your diary

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – new starters day

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – first day back for all other children – lunch clubs resume

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – break up for half term

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October - school returns

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December – no lunch club, new starters session  
12.230 – 1.30

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – break up – no lunch club

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 – new starters day

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January first day back for all other children

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – break up for half term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – preschool reopens

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – break up for Easter, no lunch club

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – preschool reopens

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May break up for half term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June preschool reopens

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Teddy Bears Picnic

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July – no lunch club - new starters session  
12.30 – 1.30

20<sup>th</sup> July summer term ends (TBC)

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Following lots of enquiries about whether children are fit to attend school or not we have taken the following extract from the NHS for your information. The article can be found at: <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx>

**Is my child too ill for school** When your child is unwell, it can be hard deciding whether to keep them off school. These simple guidelines should help.

Not every illness needs to keep your child from school. If you keep your child away from school, be sure to inform the school on the first day of their absence. Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself the following questions.

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home.
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.
- Would I take a day off work if I had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

### Common conditions

If your child is ill, it's likely to be due to one of a few minor health conditions.

Whether you send your child to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is. Use this guidance to help you make that judgement. Remember: if you're concerned about your child's health, consult a health professional.

- **Cough and cold.** A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay off school, visit the GP and return to school 24 hours after they start to feel better. If your child has a more severe and long-lasting cough, consult your GP. They can give guidance

on whether your child should stay off school.

- **Raised temperature.** If your child has a raised temperature, they shouldn't attend school. They can return 24 hours after they start to feel better
- **Rash.** Skin rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses, such as chickenpox and measles. Children with these conditions shouldn't attend school. If your child has a rash, check with your GP or practice nurse before sending them to school.
- **Headache.** A child with a minor headache doesn't usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms, such as raised temperature or drowsiness, then keep the child off school and consult your GP.
- **Vomiting and diarrhoea.** Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should definitely be kept off school until at least 48 hours after their symptoms have gone. Most cases of [diarrhoea and vomiting in children](#) get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist, consult your GP.
- **Sore throat.** A sore throat alone doesn't have to keep a child from school. But if it's accompanied by a raised temperature, your child should stay at home.
- **Chickenpox.** If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all their spots have crusted over.

### Tell the school

It's important to inform the school if your child is going to be absent. On the first day of your child's illness, telephone the school to tell them that your child will be staying at home. The school may ask about the nature of the illness and how long you expect the absence to last.

If it becomes clear that your child will be away for longer than expected, phone the school as soon as possible to explain this.