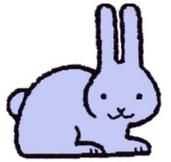




Newsletter

November 2017



Last week of term – changes to previously published dates

Our last 'normal session' this term will be on Monday 18th December from 9 – 12; there will be no lunch club this day to enable us to prepare for the Christmas party.

Christmas party. This year's Christmas party for all of the children will be on Tuesday 19th December from 9am. Parents/carers are invited back at 11.30 prompt to hear the children sing their Christmas songs and to join us for a festive mince pie (or two!). Further information and individual invitations will follow in due course.

January start dates

We return from our Christmas break on Wednesday 3rd January. This session is by invitation only and is for all of our children who are starting with us this term. Preschool reopens to all of our 'old' children at 9am on Thursday 4th January.

No lunch club

Please note that there is NO LUNCH CLUB on TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER.

Christmas jumper week

We will be having a Christmas Jumper Week from 4th to 8th December to get into the Christmas spirit and to raise money for our children's Christmas Party.

Just send your child to school in their Christmas jumper that week and we will take photographs of all the participants (not showing the children's faces) and post them on Facebook the weekend of 9th December. You then vote for your favourite jumper and the boy and girl with the most votes wins a prize. Details of the last day for voting will be posted on our Facebook page along with the photographs.

As this is a fundraiser we suggest a minimum donation on £1.00 per child for taking part. Collection pots will be on the door throughout the week.

Lunch boxes

We recommend that children do not have too much food in their lunch boxes and that treats like crisps, cakes, biscuits and chocolates are kept to a minimum. We suggest a small sandwich or roll, a piece of fruit and a yoghurt is usually sufficient and healthy. We always encourage the children to eat these items first and some are very reluctant to do so if they know there are unhealthy treats in their bags to follow. We also have a nut allergy sufferer in the setting

this year and we request, for safety, that items such as peanut butter are avoided at school.

New starter questionnaires

This week we will be sending home our new starter questionnaires with all of the children who started with us this term. Please look for them in your child's drawer and return them to us ASAP. We value all of your comments and we are always looking at ways that we can make new children and families feel welcome. If you would prefer to speak to your child's key person in confidence about this please do not hesitate to make an appointment, just speak to your child's key person Rachel or Anna.

Parents voice

Later this half term we will be sending home 'parent voice' forms to learn more about your views and feelings and to help to inform our planning for the new term.

Lotions and potions

Please ensure that all items in your child's changing bag are suitable for children to access... if your child has any lotions or potions that they need to bring to school please hand them, clearly labelled, to any member of staff and we will store them securely and safely for you. This includes sun cream and over the counter nappy rash barriers like Sudocrem and Bepanthen.

Recently we have found creams, medicines, plasters, inhalers, lighters, cigarettes, bank cards and purses in children's changing bags. Please make sure ALL such items are removed before preschool for all of the children's safety and your peace of mind!

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.

Snack time

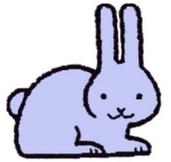
Each day at preschool we offer the children a choice of two or three different fruits or vegetables at snack time plus either milk or water to drink. In an effort to keep our fees down, parents are asked to contribute £5.00 per half term towards these costs.

Fee paying children will see this added onto their invoices at the start of each half term, and funded children will be



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asked to make voluntary contributions. Recently we have seen a big drop in the number of funded children who are making these voluntary payments. Please, if you can, do contribute to this, we can only continue to offer such good choices to the children with your help.

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.

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. The web page with lots of further advice 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/apply2yoldplace/> 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. Please note: we are unable to increase funded hours midterm.

Lunch clubs

We have very limited availability on several lunch club days now; if you would like to book sessions, especially for the spring term, please speak to Rachel or Anna ASAP.

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 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

Week of 4th December - Christmas jumper week. Please see above for more details.

Tuesday 5th December – no lunch club, new starters session 12.30 – 1.30

Monday 18th December last 'normal session' – no lunch club – preschool shuts at 12 for party preparations

Tuesday 19th December - Christmas party

Wednesday 3rd January 2017 – new starters day

Thursday 4th January first day back for all other children

Friday 9th February – break up for half term

Monday 19th February – preschool reopens

Wednesday 28th March – break up for Easter, no lunch club

Monday 16th April – preschool reopens

Thursday 24th May break up for half term

Monday 4th June preschool reopens

Wednesday 27th June – Teddy Bears Picnic

Thursday 5th July – no lunch club - new starters session 12.30 – 1.30

20th July summer term ends (TBC)