



Newsletter January 2018



Welcome back!

We hope you all had a lovely restful Christmas break

Preschool attendance

Here at Bunnies Pre-School we realise that regular attendance by children is very important in order that they may become confident with a regular and consistent schedule. Even for very young children, there are positive benefits to be gained from regular attendance, whatever the weekly pattern of childcare or schooling. This includes not only coming to every planned session, but also arriving on time.

Children who attend every planned session develop a feel for the rhythm of the week, gain a sense of security from some regular elements and find it easier to build and sustain a range of social relationships.

Please see our Non Attendance Policy below.

Non attendance policy

- If you are planning holidays during term time you must let us know in advance so we can record this in our register.
- If your child is sick or cannot attend for some reason, you must call us before 9.15am that day to let us know.
- If we have not heard from you by 9.35am we will call you to establish why your child is absent.
- If we cannot make contact with a parent/carer we will use all the contact details and the emergency contacts you have given us to try to establish why your child is absent.
- If we are concerned about the welfare of a child we reserve the right to contact social services.
- Fees remain payable during periods of absence, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed
- We must notify Herts County Council where children in receipt of Early Years Free Entitlement fails to attend preschool regularly without good cause or reason

Curriculum guidance

This terms curriculum guidance has already gone home, you can find your copy in with this half terms invoice, or online on our website www.bunniespreschool.co.uk

Proud Clouds

Here at preschool we get as excited as you do watching your child grow and develop, and we like to celebrate all of their achievements whether they happen here in school or at home with you. Hearing about what your child can do at home helps us to get to know your child even better. This term, to go with our maths theme we are asking you to complete

maths themed 'Proud Clouds'. Maths is everywhere, and you are teaching your child maths skills all of the time without even thinking about it through counting stairs, singing songs, talking about shapes, sizes, and time. 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.

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.**

Nappies

We are running very low on nappies and pull ups, we always keep some in stock for emergencies but we are fast running out. Can you help? If you have recently potty trained have you got any unwanted nappies that you could donate to us please?

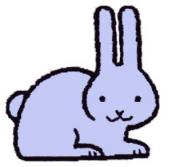
Lunch boxes

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. Thank you.



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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 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.

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 due to the increase in the National Minimal Wage from April 2018 our fees will increase marginally to £4.40 per hour. This means that a morning session will be £13.20 and a 2 hour lunch club session will be £8.80.

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 more 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

Friday 9th February – break up for half term
Monday 19th February – preschool reopens
Monday 26th February – come to school dresses as your favourite book character – all week
Thursday 3rd March – world book day
March – Easter bonnet competition – more information to follow closer to the date
Wednesday 28th March – break up for Easter, no lunch club
Monday 16th April – preschool reopens
Monday 7th May – Bank holiday, preschool shut
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)