



# Bunnies Preschool (Shephall)

## Newsletter July 2018



### Teddy Bears Picnic

A big thank you to all of you who came to our Teddy Bears Picnic, it was lovely to see so many of you there!

### Summer weather

Please continue to make sure that your child has sun cream applied to all exposed skin before coming to preschool. If your child needs to bring such items to school for later application by childminders etc please make sure that it is clearly labelled and hand it to a member of staff for safe keeping at the start of the day.

We will continue as always to make sure that all children stay properly hydrated during their time at preschool by offering plenty of water to drink and the occasional refreshing ice pop ☺

Whilst the sunshine lasts we will also be continuing with water play every day as it is an excellent way to keep little people (and staff!) cool throughout the day, so please, an extra change of clothes every day just in case! Thank you.

### Football

This last term the children have enjoyed weekly football sessions with coaches from Superstar Sports. A big thank you to all of you who have contributed to help to make this happen for the children. We are hopeful that there might be a little money left in the kitty for some more sessions in September. Watch this space....

### Transitions

Lots of our children will be leaving us at the end of term to go to their new nursery schools or reception classes. Many of their new teachers have already been in to visit the children here at Bunnies to meet them, and to further help them to learn about their new children. If you have any concerns about your child's transition please do not hesitate to speak to Anna or Rachel.

### The last week of term.....

Our last normal day this term is on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July; this will be the last day of preschool for all of the children who will be returning to us in

September. Preschool reopens for all of our 'old children' on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> is party day for all of the children who are leaving us this term (by invitation only) and the session will run from 9.00 to 11.30. Individual invitations are coming home this week.

### Goodbyes.....

We will soon be saying emotional goodbyes to many of our children who are leaving us for their next step of their schooling journey. Alfie, Austin, Callum, Ellie, Esmè, Fabian, George, Isabella C-J, Isabella G, Jenna, Lainey, Lizzie, Lola, Lyla, Mason, Nadia, Nevaeh, Raiya, Scarlett and Stanley, we will miss each and every one of you. Good luck and have fun in your new schools!

### Autumn term availability

We now have limited places left for morning, lunch club and afternoon sessions. If you need to make any last minute changes to your child's sessions for September please speak to Rachel or Anna ASAP.

Please note: occasional lunch clubs or extra days can be booked on a daily basis (space permitting) and must be paid for on the day.

Children from Featherstone Wood School Nursery are welcome to join us in the afternoons, we collect the children at 11.50 and children can stay until 1, 2 or 3pm. Please speak to us ASAP to book a space!

### Returning in September

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September is by invitation only and is only for the children who are starting with us this term. The session will run from 9.00 - 12.00 noon.

For all other children the term will start on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

### Parent survey

Attached you will find our end of term parent survey; our annual survey provides us with invaluable information that enables us to continue to provide the highest standards of care and early year's provision for your child. It also provides you, the children's parents and carers with the opportunity to have your say about your child's preschool.

Please spare a few minutes to fill it in and return it to us before the end of term. Your responses will then be collated and your responses will be available for you to view on our website as soon as possible.

### 30 Hours

You may need to reconfirm your eligibility with HMRC to ensure that you are still eligible for autumn 2018. If you have not already reconfirmed your eligibility you can do this by logging in to your childcare service account.

If you were issued with a code over the telephone, you will need to reapply online when the time comes to reconfirm your eligibility. **For all new parents who may be eligible for 30 hours free childcare from September 2018, you have a deadline of 31 August 2018 to apply for an eligibility code on the childcare choices website.**

If any parent has difficulties with reconfirmation, you should insist that an incident referral is raised with HMRC via their helpline; HMRC can be contacted on 0300 123 4097  
<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

### Head lice

We have had a couple of cases of head lice reported to us. Please check your child's hair regularly and carefully. We recommend using a nit comb on damp conditioned hair rather than using chemicals.

### 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.

### 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 donations.

### Fees

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 if 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/lexyears/freeearlyeduc/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. Please note: funded hours cannot be increased midterm.

### 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 preschool; 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 in our running costs; as a consequence of this a small charge is made for items that are regularly used from our stock.**

### Dates for your diary

#### Summer term

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July** - last 'normal' session - last day of term for all of the children who are returning to us in September

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July** - Party day for all of the children who are leaving us this term from 9.00 to 11.30. Individual invitations are coming home now.

#### Autumn term

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** - Inset day

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September** - new starters' day - by invitation only

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September** - first day of term for all the children who are returning to us