

Bunnies Preschool

Newsletter September 2018

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.

Ofsted As many of you know we had our Ofsted inspection at the end of the summer term and we are delighted to say that we are again rated as 'GOOD'. The full report can be viewed on our website www.bunniespreschool.co.uk or the Ofsted website, (our Ofsted reference number is EY 41 49 90) and extracts can be seen on our Facebook page. Paper copies are in the setting and can be provided for anyone who would like one.

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, (Level 2, working towards level 3) Giraffe group key worker
Dawn, (level 3 CCLD) preschool assistant
Kerry, 121 support worker and preschool assistant
Fabz, volunteer preschool assistant - W/T level 2
Sue, volunteer preschool assistant - W/T level 3
Donna, volunteer preschool assistant - W/T level 2
Naz, volunteer preschool assistant - soon to be W/T level 2

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

Parent survey Thank you to all of you who took the time to take part in our annual parent survey at the end of the summer term. Your comments have

now been collated and the completed survey can be viewed on our website www.bunniespreschool.co.uk This collation of your views and opinions 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 and tell us what you like or what you think we can do better.

On our website, click on the Shephall tab at the top, then newsletters on the left hand side. This will open up another option for surveys, click on this and you will see this year's results along with all of our archive surveys.

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.

Autumn fundraiser "Wear Something Yellow" 10th October 2018 - all proceeds to Young Minds Mental Health Charity, a cause that is very close to

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Britt's heart. Britt works in our Great Ashby setting and this is just one of several events that she is coordinating this year to support this great cause.

All children are invited to "Wear Something Yellow" to pre-school on this day to support this great cause for a small donation. Other activities will be going on during the week including a cake sale. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information!

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/Page/illness.aspx>

Fees Just a reminder for those that are fee paying; our fees are £13.20 per 3 hour session (£26.40 per full day) whilst lunch clubs are charged by the hour at £4.40 p/h.

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/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: we are unable to increase funded hours midterm.

30 hours funding Those children who are entitled to the 30 hours free childcare can attend preschool for the full 30 hours per week, or share this care with another provider, (e.g. a childminder) You, and any partner, must each expect to earn (on average) the equivalent of working 16 hours a week at your national minimum wage (£120 at the National Living Wage, less if you are on the National Minimum Wage)

If you, or your partner, are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible. You can't get 30 hours free Child care if you, or your partner, expect to earn £100,000 or more.

Your child can start in their childcare place the term after they turn 3 years old and have received a valid 30 hours code, **whichever is later**. Term start dates are 1st September, 1st January and 1st April. You may get asked for further information as part of your application, **so apply well ahead of the start date for each term**. To keep your 30 hours free childcare place you need to check your details are up to date every 3 months.

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.

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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 and afternoon hours

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.

Focus child Every term each child has a week when they are our 'Focus Child'. During this focus week we all observe the focus children while they play to find out more about their interests and how they are progressing. At the end of the week we invite you in for a parent consultation with your child's key person.

We value the knowledge and understanding that you have of your child as their first educators and it really helps us to know what your child likes doing at home, any achievements they have made and if you have anything that you would like to know about your child's development etc. Therefore, a week or so before your child's focus week we will send home a simple sheet for you to complete. We also welcome any photos that you would like to share with us that we can put into your child's learning journey book. These pictures can be prints or if you would prefer email them to shephall@bunniespreschool.co.uk Please note, please put your child's name in the subject bar of any E-mails that you send, attachments without a recognisable label will not be opened!

Dates for your diary

Autumn term

Tuesday 4th September - new starter's day

Wednesday 5th September - first day back for all other children

Wednesday 10th October - Wear Something Yellow fund raiser, all proceeds to Young Minds Mental Health Charity.

Friday 26th October - break up for half term
(Please note that the rest of Featherstone Wood School is shut today)

Monday 5th November - preschool reopens

Monday 10th December - no afternoon session - new starters afternoon and staff training.

Friday 21st December - Party day - end of term
(Please note that the rest of Featherstone Wood School breaks up on the 20th)

Spring term

Monday 7th January 2019 - new starter's day

Tuesday 8th January first day back for all other children

Friday 15th February - break up for half term

Monday 25th February - preschool reopens

Friday 5th April - break up for Easter (TBC)

Summer term

Tuesday 23rd April - preschool reopens

Monday 6th May - bank holiday

Friday 24th May - break up for half term

Monday 3rd June - inset day (Please note - the rest of Featherstone Wood School is open as usual today)

Tuesday 4th June - inset day (Please note - the rest of Featherstone Wood School is open as usual today)

Wednesday 5th June - preschool reopens

Wednesday 26th June - Teddy bears picnic (TBC)

Thursday 11th July - no afternoon session - new starters session 12.30 - 1.30 and staff training

Tuesday 23rd July break up - (Featherstone Wood School breaks up today too)

Wednesday 24th July - inset day

We have a further 2 inset days, dates 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.