

Bunnies Preschool (Great Ashby)

Newsletter – December 2020

Christmas Party

This year our Christmas party will be on Thursday 17th December from 9—12. This will be our last session this term and all of our children will be invited. Normal session fees apply. Individual invitations will come home soon. We regret that we will be unable to offer drop offs to Round Diamond School on our party day.

Usually we would ask parents to provide food to share for the party, but this year we feel that this is not advisable because of COVID. Instead we are asking if everyone would donate £2.00 so we are still able to provide a party snack and treats for all of the children on the day. We thank you in advance for helping us with this.

What does Christmas look like?

We have been talking to the children about Christmas and what Christmas looks like in their homes. Do you have any family traditions that you would like to share with us? When do you open your presents? Do you go to Christmas Mass? Does your child have an advent calendar or visits from The Elf on the Shelf? Please take a few moments to complete the attached sheet and send in some photos too for your child's learning journal.

Raffle Tickets

We are still selling tickets for our Christmas raffle. Please see Lucy or Anthea on the door to buy yours!

Afternoon sessions

Our last afternoon session this term will be on Wednesday 16th December, all of our afternoon children will be invited to our Christmas party on Thursday 17th December

30 hours free childcare

You may be able to get up to 30 hours free childcare (1,140 hours per year, which you can choose how you take). If you're eligible for the extra hours, you sign up online to get a code to give to your childcare provider to reserve your place. You'll get the extra hours once the next term starts.

Eligibility - You can usually get 30 hours free childcare if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in work - or getting parental leave, sick leave or annual leave

each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week - this is £120 if you're over 25

This earnings limit doesn't apply if you're self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago.

You're not eligible if:

- your child doesn't usually live with you
- the child is your foster child

either you or your partner has a taxable income over £100,000

you're from outside the EEA and your UK residence card says you can't access public funds.

You can get 30 hours free childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits or childcare vouchers. If you can't work

You may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you get Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance.

Apply for 30 hours free childcare

You'll need your details (and your partner's, if you have one), including your:

- National Insurance number

Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR), if you're self-employed.

You'll get a childcare account if your application is successful. You can use it to get your code for 30 hours free childcare.

If you pay for childcare and want to use Tax-Free Childcare to get help with costs, you can also apply using this service. It usually takes 20 minutes to apply. You may find out if you're eligible straight away, but it can take up to 7 days.

To be eligible for the spring term you MUST have applied for and received your code by 31st December 2020.

January sessions

We have very limited availability for some sessions in January. Please speak to Anthea ASAP if you wish to add any more sessions

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

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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.**

Snow

Should we be lucky enough to get any of the white stuff this winter we are only able to open if enough members of staff can safely travel to preschool, and only then if access to the Community Centre is deemed to be safe. We do, of course, try to alert as many parents as we can; however, as you can appreciate it is not easy contacting everyone. We publish updates as soon as we get them on our Facebook page. Please 'like' our page now to make sure you can see all of our updates.

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 greatashby@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!

Video tour

As we are unable to show prospective parents around our lovely setting we have created a video tour which can be viewed on our Facebook page and on our website. Please take a look and let us know what you think!

Invoices

This half terms invoices have all gone home, thank you to all of you who have already made your payments. If you are yet to pay please do so ASAP as fees are now overdue

Dates for your diary

December 2020

Thursday 17th December—break up for Christmas. No afternoon session, individual invitations to follow.

January 2021

Monday 4th January—new starter's session—by invitation

Tuesday 5th January—preschool resumes for all of our 'old' children

February 2021

Friday 12th February—break up for half term

Monday 22nd February - preschool reopens

March 2021

Friday 26th March—break up for Easter

April 2021

Monday 12th April—preschool reopens

May 2021

Monday 3rd May—bank holiday

Friday 28th May—break up for half term

June 2021

Monday 7th June—preschool reopens

Teddy Bears Picnic—date TBC

July 2021

Friday 16th July—break up for the summer