

# The Early Bird Pre-School (Norton) Newsletter

December 2010



**Important DATE!**

## Season's Greetings. See you back on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

### Term Dates

**Autumn Term**  
Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept - Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Half Term**  
Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Oct - Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Oct

**Christmas Break**  
Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Dec - Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan

**Spring Term**  
Tues 4<sup>th</sup> January to Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Apr

**Half Term**  
Mon 21<sup>st</sup> - Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January -  
closed for staff training  
day**  
Subject to 1-2 days closure  
for inset staff training days

### The Early Bird Pre-School latest news

As part of our self evaluation we have recently had a visit from an Educational Psychologist from Herts County Council who observed the behaviour of the children and more importantly how the staff coped with different situations that arise from the session. Feedback from her and our area SenCo is that there are no significant issues and overall the children are well behaved and managed by the staff. However they identified it would be beneficial to revisit our rules and consequences for breaking these and to share these with both parents and children to have a more consistent approach by all involved. This we have started to do and will be providing further details and information on in the new year.

Thank you for those of you who attended the parents evening in November. If anybody else would like to see their child's key person before the end of term let us know asap.

### Medicines and Illness!

Please can you let us know if your child has had any medication (including calpol or nurofen) before coming into the setting. There is a form to sign in case of an emergency.

Remember if your child is unwell or has a temperature the best place for them to be is at home.

If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea please only return them to the setting 48 hours after last occurrence.

**Setting Hours** - Due to a drop in demand for extended hours we have decided to close the setting at 1.30 on a Monday and Wednesday. We also have lots of spaces for lunch club in the New Year so if you are interested in booking your child into a lunch club please let us know. Thank You.

### Snow Policy

Just to remind parents that should we be closed we will post a message on the noticeboard on our website [www.earlybirdpreschool.com](http://www.earlybirdpreschool.com). Please in the meantime wrap up warm and remember coats, gloves and hats with names on.

### Christmas Performance

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Those not attending a normal session on a Friday are welcome to arrive with an adult from 11.30. Please do not arrive before this time as we shall be preparing the room.

### Events coming up

**Christmas Party Week**

**13<sup>th</sup> December**

Face Painter

**14<sup>th</sup> December**

Bouncy Castle Day

**15<sup>th</sup> December**

Father Christmas will be in the Early Bird Grotto from 9.30 - 10.00. If your child is not in the setting on a Wednesday please feel free to bring them in to meet Santa. All children will receive a present this week.

**16<sup>th</sup> December**

Party Activity Day

Children can come in party wear or fancy dress all week. Lots of xmas activities today.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

End of Term Christmas Performance  
Parents are invited to come and join us at 11.30 to celebrate Christmas and say goodbye to those leaving us.

Please note that we close for Christmas at 12pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. The session and performance will take place in the Clulow Room, please use the side entrance on this day. Fancy dress or party clothes welcome!

## Staff Members

Denisse Skewis - Lead Practitioner, Owner (Safeguarding Children)  
Tracie Newton - Deputy Lead Practitioner (SenCo and Health and Safety)  
Rosemary Williams - Senior Practitioner (Observation, Assessment & Planning)  
Vincenza Walls - Senior Practitioner (H&S and SenCo)  
Ruth di Nooijer - Practitioner  
Vanessa Wong - Practitioner  
Amy Kibler - Practitioner  
Lynda Evans - Helper  
Dominick di Stazio - Helper  
Melanie Gobey - Administrator

## Staff Studies

Some of the staff are studying for their Degree in Early Years. Thank you to the parents who have been kind enough to support these with filling in your questionnaires. As well as helping the student these will feed in to our self evaluation of our setting.

## Lunch Time Reminders

Please can we remind you to keep your children's lunch boxes as healthy as possible.

- Chocolate bars are not permitted.
- No fizzy drinks.
- No nut products including peanut butter, chocolate spread and cereal bars.
- Keep the boxes clean, kitchen roll in first is a good way to keep them hygienic.

Can all containers, drinks bottles and lunch boxes be labelled.

## Next Term Plans

We are hoping to get the children out and about around Letchworth and looking at various possible projects to engage us with the local community. Local organisations from Letchworth have been contacted and will keep you informed of our progress.

We are also hoping that the community police officer and road safety officer will be visiting to talk to the children about keeping themselves safe. Finally we shall be celebrating Chinese New Year and looking at the seasons and weather while looking at the turn of the New Year.

## Learning Journeys and EYFS

We shall be holding a meeting for parents in the New Year to further explain the EYFS and how we observe and log your child's development during their time with us. Refreshments served.

Date: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January

Time: 8 - 9 pm

Location: The Early Bird Pre-School (Westbury)

## Children's Belongings

Please ensure that all your children's belongings are removed from the coat rack before the end of term.

Another reminder to please label your child's clothes.

Finally please do not let your child bring in an item that may be 'Special' or you do not want to go missing.

The children have had great fun in the snow. They have been comparing footprints, catching the falling snow and exploring the feel of it and seeing what happens when it gets warm.

We have also explored Hanukkah and cooked shortbread for St Andrews Day. Thank you for all those who donated and came in dressed up in spotty clothes for Children In Need. We have donated over £30 for this cause. Thank you to Samuel's mum who donated the lovely gingerbread biscuits for us to sell. The children have also been producing their self-portraits and these have been displayed on the display boards.

Finally we were really lucky to have a visitor who showed us how to make apple juice. Dominic donated the apples and the children loved watching them being pressed and then drinking the delicious juice.

From all the staff at The Early Bird Pre-School