

# The Early Bird Pre-School (Norton) Newsletter

February 2011



## Have a lovely half term. 21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> February

*Important  
DATE!*

### Term Dates

#### 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

#### Easter Break

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Apr - Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Apr

#### Summer Term

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Apr - Wed 20<sup>th</sup> July

#### Half Term

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May - Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> June

#### Bank Holidays

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April (Royal

Wedding)

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

We shall be closed on Thurs  
21<sup>st</sup> and Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July for  
staff training and cleaning.

### The Early Bird Pre-School latest news

We have received really good feedback from the leaver's questionnaire. Parents all thought we are doing a really good job. However, some brought up the Red Home Communication book in the book bags and how unsure they were of the purpose. We have talked as a team on this and have decided that as part of the induction meeting key people will ask the parents if they want to use them or if they prefer to use verbal feedback at the start/end of the session so we are not duplicating information. Let your key person know what you think.

We held a Parents Early Years Foundation Stage Information Evening this term and hope the parents who attended found it useful. We shall be using some of the content of this in our new starters parent information evening.

### Holiday Club!

We shall be hosting 2 holiday clubs this year at our Westbury site. These are open to any children aged 3 - 7 with a small number of spaces for 2 year olds.

TIME: 9.30 - 12.30

DATES: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday

15<sup>th</sup> April (Easter holidays)

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

August (Summer Holidays)

COST: £10 per session

Please call/email Ebony to

book your children in.

[westbury@earlybirdpreschool](mailto:westbury@earlybirdpreschool.co.uk)

[l.co.uk](http://l.co.uk)

**07907860991**

### Royal Wedding Celebrations

26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> April

We shall be having a royal wedding theme to the 3 days we are in this week. Anybody with any wedding decorations, artificial flowers, bridesmaid/page boy outfits we can borrow for the week please let us know before Easter holidays.

**Supermarket Vouchers** - These will be coming to Tesco, Sainsbury's and Morrison's soon. Please bring them into us as they really do help with getting more equipment for the setting. We will place a box next to the Early Bird Tree in the entrance. Thank You.

### Easter spaces

Just to remind parents that we only have a couple of spaces left at Easter.

If you want to increase your sessions please see me asap as they will soon all be gone and we will not have any spaces until September.

### Events/Activities coming up

#### World Book Day - Fri 4<sup>th</sup> March

We are inviting children and staff to come in dressed as their favourite book character. Children can bring in a favourite book all week to share with staff and other children (please name them)

#### Shrove Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March - making Pancake

Any parents who would like to help us for an hour at the beginning of the session would be most welcome.

#### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April - Walk to Library

We shall be taking the children up to the library on our annual visit. This is always good fun for the children but does depend on us having enough parents to help with our 1:2 adult to child ratio we need for trips. If you can help please let us know.

#### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April - New Starters

#### Parents Information Evening

(8 - 9pm at Westbury site)

This is for open to parents whose child has either just started or about to start. Lots of information about the pre-school and what to expect!

## 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 training** - we have all been busy training this term. All staff members are now first aid trained. We have also updated our training on safeguarding and completed as a team a days training on the Early Years Foundation Stage Development Matters Statements.

Ruth has started her level 3 course this term. Good luck with your studies.

## 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.

## Fees/Fundraising

As with most services the new government cuts have resulted in a reduction in funding that we now receive from HCC. We therefore have been considering some difficult decisions regarding fees. We want to continue with the levels of staffing (1-2 minimum staff over our legal ratio) as we believe this contributes hugely to the level of care and variety of activities we can offer. However, we also understand that we need to continue to be affordable and available to as many members of the community as we can. We have therefore decided to delay an increase in our fees from Easter 2011 to January 2012. However, instead we shall be holding some fundraising events during this time to try and raise funds to allow us to purchase equipment and resources.

***Please help us support these events to enable us to keep childcare costs affordable.***

## Sponsored Bunny Jump

Sponsor forms will be coming home with the children during the beginning of next term. We will be asking you to ask your family, friends and neighbours to sponsor your child to complete our bunny hop challenge.

**How many jumps on a trampette can they do in a minute?**

Jump Dates: Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Mar - Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Apr  
Return sponsor forms: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Apr  
All money raised will go towards replacing some of the bikes, prams and outdoor equipment.

## Nursery Admissions

Parents now need to apply for their nursery place online. Details will be coming through the post any time as you can start applying from 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Pre-Schools have been added to the list of nurseries.

<https://www.hertsdirect.org/comdirectory/c/hildservdir/parentcarer/childcare/nurseryadmissions/>

This term has flown by and the children have had lots of fun trying noodles, rice, prawn crackers, sweet and sour sauce and lychees at The Early Bird Chinese Restaurant. We have also enjoyed a visit from Bumble the rabbit. If you have any pets you are willing to bring in for the children to see please let us know.

Next term we shall be celebrating Spring. This will involve starting our growing project by preparing our garden for planting and planting some seeds, looking at the weather and exploring farm animals and the birth of baby lambs. This will continue in the summer term with a visit to Standalone Farm.

*From all the staff at The Early Bird Pre-School*