

# The Early Bird Pre-School Newsletter

March/April 2010



## Have a lovely Easter break!

**Important  
DATE!**

### Term Dates

#### Summer Term

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Apr - Fri 16<sup>th</sup> July

#### Half Term

Mon 31<sup>st</sup> May - Fri 4<sup>th</sup> June  
Bank Holiday - Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Parents Evening

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May - Visit to Library

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June - Visit to Standalone Farm.

### The Early Bird Pre-School latest news

We are thrilled to announce that following an Ofsted inspection a couple of weeks ago The Early Bird Pre-School (Westbury) was awarded an "OUTSTANDING" grade. At the time of writing we are the only pre-school in Letchworth with an overall outstanding grade.

Thank you for completing the questionnaires. If there are any outstanding please return them by the end of term. A report will then be distributed with the findings at the beginning of the summer term.

We have a couple of outings coming up (see dates opposite) so please come and help out if you can to ensure that they go ahead. Further details to follow next term.

### Holiday Club!

The Early Bird Pre-School is running a holiday club from the Westbury site.

This will be available from 9.30 - 12.30 (Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April).

Available for children aged 3 - 7 (limited number of 2 year old spaces now available). The price will be £10 per session.

Please email

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

**Sickness/Diarrhoea** - please do not send your child into pre-school for **48 hours** after symptoms stop.

This is a strict guideline set by the Health Protection Agency.

### Works at Parish Centre

Next term the works should finish at the centre and we shall be trialling a more permanent move to using the side entrance to the setting.

Please let us know your thoughts on this. If made permanent we shall be placing the pegs etc in this area. This is subject to agreement by the parish church council.

### The Early Bird Recipe Folder

We have a couple of ideas from parents that are so lovely. However, it would be great to have more as the children just love to cook! We are inviting you to bring in an A4 sheet with a recipe you enjoy making at home with your child. Photos/pictures (drawn by child) would be a great addition but not essential!

We will then laminate the sheet and add it to our folder. I am sure your child will love to see their own recipe in our folder and it will give us some ideas for activities. Please no nuts and not too many ingredients in the recipes. Thank you.

### Fees and Collection of Children

The fees for the pre-school sessions will be increasing by 25p per hour. Increase in fees has been kept minimal over the last couple of years and this year is in line with an increase in costs.

Please can parents be reminded to collect their children on time. A copy of our collection of children policy states that we can charge £5 for late collection of up to 15 minutes and £10 per 15 minutes after this.

## Staff Members

Denisse Skewis - Lead Practitioner, Owner  
Tracie Newton - Deputy Lead Practitioner (SenCo and Health and Safety)  
Rosemary Williams - Deputy Lead Practitioner (Safeguarding Children)  
Vincenza Walls - Practitioner  
Hilary Wright - Practitioner  
Charnjit Chaggar-Chahal - Practitioner  
Vanessa Wong - Practitioner  
Amy Kibler - Practitioner  
Lynda Evans - Helper

## New Parent/Child Induction Pack

We have been busy working on a new induction pack for new starters. This will contain information about fees and funding, guide to communication, lots about the EYFS and how we operate and local information about the children's centre. We also have small contact cards that parent's may wish to put in their wallets/bags etc so they know all our contact details. We are piloting it at the moment and final copies will be available for current families at our parents evening in May.

## Policies and Procedures

We are currently reviewing our policies and procedures in the setting and would welcome any parents involvement. If you are interested please let Denisse know and she will provide you with a copy for your comments. Involvement can be for all policies or just one or two. Can provide them by email or hard copy.

## FACEBOOK

We now have a facebook page. Search Early Bird Pre-School (Norton). Please become a fan! We shall be regularly putting up events and snippets of information for those of you who may not come into the setting and get to see the noticeboard.

## Planned activities for next term

*Next term we hope that Spring will continue and we can extend some of the activities that we have started. We plan to continue our planting of herbs and tomatoes and do lots more cooking.*

*It is St George's day when we come back and we shall be taking the children over to visit St George's church in small groups to look around and do some rubbings.*

*The children have also been showing lots of interest in Disney, princes and princesses and Rockets so we also plan to extend these interests next term.*

*Please do let us know your child's interests and remember to bring in any interesting observations or stories about your child.*

*Show and Tell - the first two weeks back from Easter we will be providing the children with the opportunity to bring in something from home (maybe a photograph, picture or other object) to encourage them to talk about what they did over the Easter holidays. Please label these items. Thank you.*

## Help Wanted!

We need some help finishing off our garden. We have some wooden equipment to build (arbour and seating), sheds to treat and screening to put up. However, budget is limited.

Please let me know if you know anybody handy who can help!

This term spring has started and we have been really busy planting potatoes. The children have really enjoyed these and we shall be continuing this next term. We have seen lots of role play around super heroes and seen lots of groups of children engaging in this in character for most of the session. This has shown great creativity and imagination and we have extended this to a pirate role play for the last week of term.

Another popular role play this term was the Art Gallery where the children really enjoyed looking at the pictures on display and then using various materials to produce their own work.

We have done lots of cooking this term and making our own play dough. If anybody would like a play dough recipe to try at home please let us know.

Next term we have a date for parents evening. If you can't make this evening please let us know and we can arrange for an alternative suitable time.

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