

The Early Bird Pre-School (Norton) Newsletter

October 2011



**Important
DATE!**

Autumn is here - remember your coats and please label them.

Term Dates

Autumn Term
Monday 5th Sept - Fri 16th Dec
Half Term
Mon 24th - Fri 28th Oct

Spring Term
Wed 4th January to Fri 30th March
Half Term
Mon 13th - Fri 17th Feb
Easter Break
Mon 2nd Apr - Fri 13th Apr

Summer Term
Mon 16th Apr - Fri 20th July
Half Term
Mon 4th June - Fri 8th June

Subject to up to a maximum of 3 days closure for staff training.

The Early Bird Pre-School latest news

We would like to thank you all for your help with the many walks and activities that have taken place. In particular the Norton common walk and donations received for the harvest festival.

Denisse is now representing early years settings on the Hertfordshire County Council Early Years Advisory Group. She is also a leading practitioner on the 2 year old pilot scheme run by the council. Along with the role of Chair of the Pre-School Learning Alliance this enables us, as a setting to be up to date with, and influence council policy. It also ensures that we are up to date with future plans so we can adapt to ensure we remain sustainable in these tough times. A display will be available at parents evening and in the setting after this outlining some of the changes that will be occurring in early years over the forthcoming year.

Please see our notice board and if you would like to volunteer with us please add your name to the list. We love to have help and many of our staff started as a volunteer!

Mobile Phones & Cameras

Just a reminder that in line with our policies and procedures we would like to remind you that parents are not permitted to use mobile phones in the setting. If you need to take or make a call please let us know and we can help mind your child in the setting.

If you do not want photographs or videos of your child taken by other parents during Christmas week please let your key person know asap.

Halloween Party

Monday 31st October

Children who attend pre-school on a Monday are free to come in dressed up in fancy dress and join us for a session full of spooky activities and snack.

New Parents Evening

Parents who have just joined us or are joining us in January are invited to a new parents evening.

Date: Wednesday 7th December
Time: 8.00 - 9.30
Venue: The Early Bird Pre-School (Westbury) Lime Tree Children's Centre
West View
Letchworth, SG6 3QN

Christmas at Early Birds

**Christmas Party Week
12 - 16th December**

After a very successful week last year we shall be having a party week the last week of term. We shall have a bouncy castle, face painter and Father Christmas visit us over the week as well as Christmas snacks and activities. Children can come in party wear or fancy dress all week. A **voluntary donation of £5 per child would enable us to provide the above.** If we do not get enough funds to cover the above we may not be able to do all the activities planned. All funds received will go towards the week.

**End of Term Christmas Performance
Friday 16th December**

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 and the session will be in the Clulow room. Entrance at the side of the hall.

Fundraising Events this term

Monday 7th - Friday 11th November

Treasure Hunt. We shall be fundraising for some new easels and craft supplies.

**Friday 18th November - Children in Need
(Voluntary donations appreciated)**

Cakes and multi coloured play doh on sale throughout the week. We will all be coming to pre-school on Friday in Pyjamas/Dressing Gowns and slippers and having lots of fun.

Staff Members

Denisse - Lead Practitioner, Owner (Safeguarding Children)

Tracie - Deputy Lead Practitioner (SenCo and Health and Safety)

Rosemary - Senior Practitioner (Observation, Assessment & Planning)

Vincenza - Senior Practitioner (H&S and SenCo)

Ruth - Practitioner

Amy - Practitioner

Louise - Practitioner

Lynda - Helper

Dominic - Helper

Melanie - Administrator

Fee Increase - As of January 2012 the fees for attending Early Bird's will be rising to £4.00 per hour. This is to make up for the loss of funding and increase in costs the pre-school is facing.

However, we are pleased to announce that we shall be offering discounts and a full schedule of these is available with this newsletter and online.

ITEMS WANTED

We are interested in developing a music wall outside and improving our role play area resources and would welcome any of the following items:-

- Metal rack
- Baby food tins
- Metal cooking utensils
- Saucepan/frying pan
- Lids of the top of sauces (the ones with a popper)
- Parenting magazines
- Children's magazines
- OS maps
- Car magazines
- Kitchen Roll Tubes
- Plastic small bottles with lids e.g. lucozade size
- Portable High Chair

Notices

Footwear -If your child comes to school in wellies please can you also bring in some indoor shoes to enable your child to access all activities. We regularly have the climbing frame out and children need to be wearing sensible shoes to climb safely. Thank you.

Fire Drills - the children have been really good at listening when doing our half termly fire drill. We take the children out and walk them over to our meeting point on the grass by the church.

Contact Details -Please can I remind you that if you have changed any personal details, particularly mobile contact numbers can you let us know so we can update our files.

Asthma/Inhalers - It is essential that we know if your child has an inhaler. These are not to be kept in their bags and we need to fill in a permission form to administer these.

Allergies - Please do let us know if your child has any allergies.

Medicines/Existing Injuries - If your child has had any medicine (e.g. calpol, piriton) before attending pre-school we need to get you to sign a form before you leave. Likewise, with existing injuries.

PARENT'S EVENING

Date: Monday 14th November

Time: 7.30 - 9.30

Venue: Clulow Room, Norton Parish Centre (please use the side entrance)

A form will be placed outside for you to add your name to after half term. If you are unable to make it on the evening and would like to make an alternative time please let us know.

Dates for Diary

Mon 31st October - Halloween Party

7th - 11th November - Sponsored treasure hunt

Mon 14th November - Parents Evening

Friday 18th November - Children in Need Cake Stall and pyjama party

Wednesday 7th December - New Parents Evening

12 - 16th December - Christmas Party Week

Friday 16th December - End of term performance at 11.30. Please note we close at 12pm on the last day of term.

We have had a lovely half term with lots of popular activities with the children. In September fire fighters came into the setting to help the children learn about dialling 999. They gave out books and stickers (more in setting if needed). Children were offered the opportunity to use a fire hose and observe the fire engine.

During October we had a lovely walk to Norton Common. This was enjoyed by all and we made the most of the lovely sunny but windy day. We collected leaves of different colours, acorns, conkers and husks, bark, moss and branches. We also had visit to the church to celebrate harvest, that was enjoyed by the children. Father Darren gave a talk and invited the children to place food on the altar and say a small prayer of thanks.

Finally we had a visit from Ruth's tortoise at the end of term and the children were fascinated and enjoyed putting him to bed for the winter.

From all the staff at The Early Bird Pre-School