

The Early Bird Pre-School (Norton) Newsletter

September 2011



Important DATE!

The Early Bird Pre-School gets an Outstanding Ofsted Report

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

Ofsted visited us in June and we are thrilled that we were awarded an outstanding grade. The report is fantastic and it is great to be recognised for the hard work that everyone puts in. We legally have to show all parents a copy of the report and have enclosed one for you to read with this newsletter.

Congratulations to Ruth who has completed her level 3 qualification in Early Years.

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.

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!

Welcome back!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to Early Bird's. We have lots of new children joining us and the first couple of weeks will be busy ensuring that all the children are settled, get used to the routine and everyone is happy.

If you have any concerns or questions please speak to a member of staff or feel free to email or phone out of session hours.

Label Clothing - Please can you ensure that all your children's outer clothes and shoes are labelled.

Spare Clothes - our stock of spare clothes is going down. If you have any spare clothing or underwear for ages 2 - 4 we would welcome taking them off your hands.

Funding Cuts & Nursery Admissions Changes

This term we shall be adapting to significant changes in Early Years. Until recently we have been able to keep out fees low for 2 year olds due to the higher rates of funding received for 3 year olds from the government. Due to a cut in this funding and some nurseries taking children early we have seen a significant drop in income for the next academic year. Along with this we are seeing a rise in rent and other costs.

This term we are reviewing our fees and will let everyone know the outcome of this review by October half term. Any changes will be coming into place in January 2012 and will be the minimal amount possible but ensuring the pre-school remains viable and not making a loss.

Finally, if your child gets offered a space earlier than expected please discuss this with us. Nurseries will not be receiving funding from Hertfordshire County Council for any children taken early as they believe that many children are not ready for nursery at this stage. Parents also have the right to defer entrance to nursery and schools have to accept this. We believe that every child is different and some would benefit for an extra term with us where others are more than ready for that important next step and happy to talk this through with you!

Website

Just to let you know that you can access up to date information regarding events and newsletters as well as term dates on our website. This is being updated regularly by Mel our administrator. Please let us know what you think of it and if you would like to see anything else on the site.
www.earlybirdpreschool.co.uk

Nature Walk to Norton Common Thursday 20th October

Every autumn we take the children on a nature walk to the common where we collect items to bring back to the setting. The walk will take place at 9.30 and we aim to be back by 10.30. Children not attending on a Thursday are welcome to join us with an adult. If you are able to help us on the walk please let us know as we need a ratio of 1:2 adult to children to be able to do the outing.

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
Vanessa - Practitioner
Amy - Practitioner
Louise - Practitioner
Lynda - Helper
Dominic - Helper
Melanie - Administrator

Staff changes - Unfortunately we shall be saying good-bye to Vanessa at half term due to a recurring shoulder injury. We will be speaking to all her key person parents in the next couple of weeks to ensure there is a smooth transition for the children to a new key person. Louise will be taking over Vanessa's hours and will be with us every day from September.

Hall Refurbishment

A lot of work has gone on in the hall over the summer with the walls painted and the floor sanded and re-varnished. We are extremely pleased that the church have done this and looking forward to some new windows being fitted in the near future.

While the floor settles we shall be having sand play outside and not inside due to its abrasive nature however we will continue to have soil and water play inside.

Health and Safety Notices

Shoes - please be aware that in the pre-school we do lots of climbing, jumping etc that require the children to be in shoes that have straps on them. Doodles or plimsoles are good for these activities. PLEASE NO FLIP FLOPS.

Weather - please put suncream on your child before entering pre-school if sunny and have a coat if rainy or cold.

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.

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

Medicines - 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.

NEW PARENT OPEN DAY

Monday 10th October

Time: 10 - 11

We shall be holding an open day for prospective parents who are looking for a pre-school place in 2012. If you know anybody please can you tell them about this event. A short talk and display will be in the Clulow Room followed by a chance to have a look at the pre-school hall and outside space.

Dates for Diary

Mon 10th October - Parents Open Day

Thurs 20th October - Nature walk to Norton Common

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

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 hope that you have all had a lovely summer holiday. We are looking forward to the new term.

We had such a busy end of the summer term and would like to thank the parents for helping with our trip to the farm. The children did a fantastic end of term performance and hope you all enjoyed it.

This term we shall be introducing our numicon maths programme to the pre-school to supplement our phonics work we do with the children. We shall also be looking at the world around us with a walk to the common and looking at our sunflowers and picking out the seeds. If the children have been on holiday or out for day trips over the summer they are welcome to bring in something to share with the group.

From all the staff at The Early Bird Pre-School