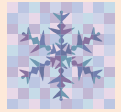


The Early Bird Pre-School (Westbury) Newsletter

October 2011



Happy Autumn! Please wrap up warm.



Important DATE!

Term Dates

Autumn Term

Mon 5th Sept - Fri 16th Dec

Half Term

Mon 24th Oct - Fri 28th Oct

Christmas Break

Mon 19th Dec - Tues 3rd Jan 2012

Spring Term

Wed 4th Jan - 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

Denisse is now representing early years settings on the Hertfordshire County Council Early Years Advisory Group. Denisse has the role of Chair of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and Ebony is a committee member, 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.

New Parents Evening; Wednesday 7th December at 8.00 - 9.30pm. Parents who have just joined us or are joining us in January are invited to a new parents evening.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 31st October - Halloween activities. Children are welcome to come in fancy dress.

Friday 3rd November - Davina the Photographer will be with us for the day. If your children do not attend on this day you are welcome to come and see her. Davina is happy to take family portraits.

Week beginning 7th November - we shall be talking about fireworks we have seen over the weekend and making firework pictures.

Thursday 10th November - Visit from Community Police Officer at 2.30pm, all welcome.

Monday 14th November - Meet Your Key Person Evening 4.30-9pm. Please ask to see our booking form for you to choose a time to meet your key person. If you cannot make this day please arrange another date with your key person.

Friday 18th November - Children in Need. We shall be wearing spotty clothes and making cakes to sell on this day. Visit from Community Police Officer at 10am, all welcome.

Wednesday 7th December - New Parents Evening, 8-9.30.

Please keep checking our notices on the door and our website and facebook page for all the latest information.



Christmas Party Week

Children can come in party wear or fancy dress and we shall be having lots of fun festive activities on offer.

Monday 12th December

Festive baking activities

Tuesday 13th December

Face Painter in the morning. Santa visiting in the afternoon.

Wednesday 14th December

Festive baking activities

Thursday 15th December

Santa visiting in the morning. Face Painter in the afternoon.

Friday 16th December

End of term Christmas sing song and dance. Parents are invited to come and join us at 11.30-12 or 3-3.30 to celebrate Christmas and say goodbye to those leaving us.

Weather permitting we are hoping to do this in the garden as there is more space for all of us so please wrap up yourselves and the children in warm clothing.

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.

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

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Staff Members

Denisse Skewis - Director

Ebony Connah - Lead

Practitioner (Safeguarding
Children Officer)

Syreta Scott - Deputy Lead

Practitioner (Health & Safety
Officer)

Maria Gibbons - Senior

Early Years Practitioner
(Special Educational Needs
Co-Ordinator)

Malgorzata Placha - Bonicki

- Early Years Practitioner

Kathryn Rowley - Early

Years Practitioner

Nikki Fenner - Early Years

Practitioner

Natasha Preston - Early

Years Practitioner

Melanie Gobey -

Administrator

Volunteers: Kerry, Scilla

NHC Student - Chloe

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.



It is very important that children are collected at the end of their session on time. We are only allowed 24 children in the pre-school at one time, so if you are late this delays the session for the afternoon children coming in at 12 and 1pm. Also children must be collected at the end of the day at 3.30. If you get stuck in traffic or something has delayed you please call us as soon as possible on 07907860991 so that we can ensure staff are available, all the staff have families to get home to, they have to have time to make other arrangements for them if needed. A copy of our collection of children policy states that we can charge £5 for late collection for up to 15 minutes and £10 per 15 minutes after this.

Polite Notices

Contact Details -if any of your personal details change, particularly mobile contact numbers can you let us know so we can update our files.

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

Asthma/Inhalers - It is essential that we know if your child has an inhaler, we need to fill in a permission form to administer these.

Due to possible nut allergies schools are advised that they should be nut free. This includes cereal bars, peanut butter, nutella and many other items. When packing your child's lunch box please can you be aware of this. We have had children in the setting with a nut allergy and it is really important that they do not come in contact with any nut products.

Children are very welcome to borrow a book if they have their book bags with them. This is due to some of our books not being returned; please could you have a look through your books at home to see if any of them are ours.

The children have the choice to go outdoors in all weathers if they want to, please ensure your children have warm coats and have all items labelled including gloves, hats and scarves.



Santa's Workshop

We are planning to have this in our role play area. If you would like to help with this we are collecting resources such as cardboard boxes, sequins, wrapping paper, labels, glitter, tinsel, Christmas trees, unbreakable decorations, lights and envelopes.



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 Ebony know asap.

A very BIG thank you to all our parents helpers that have supported us with the following events: Open day (Saturday 24th September) It was lovely to see so many families enjoying time at our pre-school, the children had lots of fun on the bouncy castle and some had their face painted. Apple Pressing (Friday 7th October at 10am). The children helped to make delicious apple juice with our visitor Simon. Harvest Festival (Monday 10th October at 10am) walk and visit to our local church. Autumn Nature Walk (Tuesday 18th October at 10am and Thursday 20th October at 2pm). The children collected lots of natural objects to take back to the pre-school to explore in our investigation unit. Diwali (Friday 21st October) some of us made clay lamps and listened to a Diwali story. Please speak to your key person if you would like to help with activities at the pre-school. If you celebrate festivals and other events at home we would really appreciate your ideas for activities and you are very welcome to come into pre-school and share these with the children.

From all at The Early Bird Pre-School (Westbury)