

The Early Bird Pre-School (Westbury) Newsletter

September 2011



A very big welcome to our new friends joining us
this half term.

Hope you all had a nice summer.

The Early Bird Pre-School latest news

Welcome Back!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back. 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.

Congratulations to The Early Bird team at Norton. They were visited by Ofsted in June and were awarded an 'outstanding' grade.

Please remember to tell us if any of your details have changed, particularly mobile contact numbers, so we can update our files.

The Early Bird Team

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.

**Important
DATE!**

Volunteers Volunteers

Please see our notice board if you would like to volunteer. We love to have help and many of our staff started as a volunteer!

Questions and Concerns Questions and Concerns

If you have any concerns or questions please speak to any member of staff or you can email us at:

westbury@earlybirdpreschool.co.uk

or call us on: 07907860991

Autumn Walk

Tuesday 18th October at 10am
and

Thursday 20th October at 2pm

We would like to go on an autumn nature walk in our local community.

We need parent helpers to make this outing possible!

Please let Ebony know if you would like to join us. If your child does not attend these sessions they are welcome to join us accompanied by an adult. We suggest everyone wears wellies or comfortable shoes and waterproof coats.



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 our 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 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 from an extra term with us where others are more ready for that important next step and happy to talk this through with you!

Spare Clothes:

Our stock of girl's clothes is going down. If you have any spare girls clothes/underwear for ages 2 - 4 we would welcome taking them off your hands. We have plenty of boys. We will always support toilet training but please put plenty of spare clothes in your child's bag.

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 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

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Staff Members

Denisse Skewis - Director

Ebony Connah - Lead

Practitioner (Safeguarding
Children)

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

Unfortunately Lucretia Martin will not be returning from her maternity leave at this present time, we shall be keeping in touch and we wish her all the very best with her baby. Natasha has had a change in hours so if she is your key person please speak to her if you would like to know what they are. We are very pleased Maria (Senior Practitioner/SenCo) will now be working an extra day on a Tuesday.

Medicines and Illness!

Please can you let us know if your child has had any medication (including calpol or nurofen) before coming into the setting. There is a form to sign in case of an emergency.

Remember if your child is unwell or has a temperature the best place for them to be is at home.

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

Contact us

Please let us know if your child is not attending their session by contacting us on
07907860991

or

westbury@earlybirdpreschool.co.uk

Book bags, Draw String Bags and Sweatshirts & T-shirts

Please see us if you are interested in purchasing any. Book bags and draw string bags are a £10 deposit which you get back from the end of your child's stay with us if returned in good condition. T-Shirts cost £5 and sweatshirts cost £8.

Nut Free Setting: 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

The Early Bird Recipe Folder

We are currently putting together our favourite recipes into one book to use at pre-school. We are inviting you to bring in an A4 sheet with a recipe you enjoy making at home with your child. Photos/pictures would be a great addition!

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 in the recipes.

Dates for your diary:

- Sat 24th Sept - Open/Fun Day
- Tues 18th Oct - Autumn Walk
- Thurs 20th Oct - Autumn Walk
- Mon 31st Oct Halloween - Children are welcome to come in fancy dress
- Mon 14th Nov - Parents Evening
- Fri 18th Nov - Children in Need cake stall and pyjama party
- 12th - 16th Dec - Christmas party week
- Fri 16th Dec - End of term performance at 11.30am and 3pm

Open/Fun Day Saturday 24th September 2011

Time: 10 - 12

We shall be holding an open/fun day for existing families and prospective parents who are looking for a place in 2012. If you know anybody please invite them to this event. If you can help at the event, please tell Ebony.

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

We hope that you have all had a lovely summer holiday. We are looking forward to the new term and hope you will join us for lots of the events/activities we have planned.

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

From all the staff at The Early Bird Pre-School