

Little Burrows Newsletter: October 2020

Autumn Half Term

Next week marks the end of our first half term back at Nursery. We will be finishing at the usual time on Friday and will be back from Monday 2nd November. We are so grateful for all the support since returning to nursery. It has been a busy few months ensuring we are Covid compliant and because of the additional cost of cleaning materials and resources we are no longer able to reuse (playdough etc) we are having to add a small additional cost to the invoice to cover this. Please speak to Claire if you have any queries.

At the beginning of term we shared the nursery's risk assessment so that you could see the measures the nursery is taking to keep everyone safe. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the whole staff team who are all going over and above at the moment. At a time when large numbers of the population are being asked to work from home to keep safe, the team are coming in every day, keeping positive and making sure the children are having the best possible experience. Day to day tasks and routines that we wouldn't normally have to consider are constantly having to be re-thought to factor in hand washing and additional safety measures. We are asking staff to clean the nursery, toilets and cloakrooms throughout the day. Of course this is our job as Early Years Teachers and we feel privileged to be in this wonderful profession, but I think it is important for you all to be aware of the additional strain this is putting on all education settings and would ask you maybe give the teachers a little extra smile in the mornings. We will always respond to your queries but it might take a little longer at the moment. Please do also make use of the resources on the website and or Tapestry as a lot of information can be found on there. We will be updating the risk assessment over half term in line with staff discussions and government changes and ask that parents check this if you are interested. The website contains a vast amount of information on the nursery. We ensure that all policies and information are available on here for parents to access. Please check here first if you have any questions about the nursery systems, fees or policies. If you are unable to find the information you need then of course speak to the teachers.

Pick Up

We are changing our pick up times at the end of the day to support those of you that do school pickups. If you would prefer to pick up at 2.40 so you can get to school on time then please let the staff know. We ask that parents either pick 2.40pm or 3pm and stick to these times. These are the only times at the end of the day we will be dismissing the afternoon children from now on

Staff

We have now started the teacher supervision meetings. This is an opportunity for staff to discuss their personal targets and areas they would like to work on for their own continuous professional development.

We have been extremely impressed with all staff during these meetings. It is clear the teachers are extremely passionate about their work with the children and are dedicated to ensuring both they and the nursery are the best they can be.

So far our focus for staff at Lightwater this year is to continue developing Forest School activities, ensuring all children have regular access to the forest throughout the week and continuing our work on Phase 1 phonics. Laura will be working with the Lightwater team on these areas. Meetings will continue with Lightwater staff after half term and we will also start working with the Staines team. These meetings form the basis for our nursery development plans and training opportunities.

Children

The children have settled so beautifully into nursery. We were all prepared for this to be a challenge for all our children following lockdown but they have done so well. Our routines are well established now and the teachers have worked really hard to ensure the children are able to use the resources correctly. We are so proud of them all.

Please continue to support your child to put their own shoes and coat on each day. We will always help the children (especially our younger group) when needed but it is good to start fostering these independence skills.

We also have a new curriculum that becomes statutory from September 2021. This is something we are starting to look at and train staff in so we are up and running as soon as possible. We will keep you updated with more information throughout the year.

Contact us:

Lightwater Leisure Centre: 01276 472662

Lightwater Mobile: 07464 262024

Claire: 07730220804

Staines Landline: 01784 557348

Staines Mobile: 07543 695357

Claire: 07730220804

Please ensure all absences are reported by 9.30am via phone call to the nursery landline/mobile or via text to the nursery mobile. As emails are not always checked in the morning please do not email us to report an absence.

Reminders: *Please ensure*

All items (including clothes) are clearly labelled.

Water bottles should only contain water. Please no juice or squash. Children have the choice of milk and water at lunch time.

Please could we have any donations of tissues and baby wipes. As you can imagine going into cold season we are using these a lot.

As the weather starts to change we will still aim to be outside as much as possible. Therefore please can you ensure your child has a named coat, hat and gloves when necessary.

If you are using the 30 hours funding please ensure you are aware of the deadline for the application. For more info please visit: <https://www.littleburrows.com/30-hours-funding>. This link contains all the information parents need regarding fees and funding for the nursery.

Autumn 2 dates: **2nd November – 18th December 2020**: Please find all dates here: <https://www.littleburrows.com/term-dates>

Tapestry

Although Tapestry is primarily an assessment tool we also use it for communication. Staff use the document and memo features to share resources and information. Both these features can only be accessed via the desktop version so please log in to see this information. Parents should receive an email notification if a memo or document has been added. If you are not receiving these then please check your notification settings.

Parent Ambassadors

Thank you for all those that have put their names forward at Lightwater to become a parent ambassador. Keri (Luna's mummy) has agreed to take on the role and will start working with us to develop our community at Lightwater.

If any parents at Staines are interested please let us know.