



Spring and Summer Newsletter



As usual we would firstly like to welcome all of our new children and their families to The Pumpkin Patch. We are very happy to see how well the children have settled in and how happy they are. If you need any help with anything in the future please feel free to speak to one of the Management team in the office.

There have been some recent changes to our team. Chantelle returned from her maternity leave and started her new role as Baby Bear's room leader. Laura Roscoe and Josephine Austen moved into Little Pumpkins room to work with our younger three year olds. Holly Jackson joined the team in January and has settled well in the Baby Bear's room and Abbie Saunderson also started her role as a level three apprentice in January, Susan Griffin had also joined as our new cook. All of these staff members are a valuable addition to our ever growing team.



Breakfast is served from 7.30am until 8.40 am. This enables children to start their daily activities earlier. If you are aware that you are going to arrive after this time then please ensure your child has had breakfast before they get to nursery. The children are given a small snack of fruit, breadsticks, rice cakes etc at 10.00am .

As you are aware the nursery closes at 6.00pm, this means that we are not insured for anybody to be on the premises after this time. Please could all Parents ensure that their children are collected before 6.00pm to allow enough time to pass on messages about their child's day. If a child is collected late then a fine may be given to the parents, this is at the discretion of the manager on duty at the time.





The 30 hours funded childcare came into effect in September. As predicted there have been issues with this system. If your child has the 30 hours it is your responsibility to revalidate your eligibility code, this is done in the same way you applied for the hours. You can apply for the 30 hours by visiting the childcare choices website. Eligibility codes must be passed on to Laura or Suzanne along with the parents name, D.O.B and N.I number.

As the nursery is getting busier we are struggling to accommodate every child's belongings. We would appreciate it if children could bring their spare clothes in a drawstring bag to allow space for each child's belongings. Please could parents ensure that their children do not bring any toys from home as we do not have space to store them and also to avoid any damages (and tears).



Thursday 1st March: World Book Day– Children are invited to attend nursery dressed up as a character from a book.

26th—29th March: We will be having an Easter Bonnet Competition. All children are invited to bring a decorated bonnet in during this week. We look forward to seeing your creations.

20th April: Red day. All children are invited to dress in something red for the day. We will be doing lots of red activities too!

Term Dates for Funded Places

Easter Holidays: Break up on: 29/03/18 Return on 16/04/18

May Half Term: Break up on 25/05/18 Re-turn on 05/06/18

Summer Holidays: Break up on 13/07/18 Return on 03/09/18

The Nursery is closed on Bank Holidays



The Nursery will have been open four years this September. We have had an incredible journey and lots of families have joined us in these four years. Our first children who started with us in the babyroom in 2014 have almost finished their journey and will be soon leaving us to start a new adventure at Primary school. To mark our Snack-a-Jacks leaving for school we are going to organise a leavers trip. Parents will be invited to join their children on this trip. Details of dates, venues and prices will be given in due course.

The nursery menus are created to ensure that all children have a well balanced diet. The menus are approved by the oral hygiene team and the golden apple award scheme. The nursery has maintained the gold award for the promotion of healthy eating, oral hygiene and physical wellbeing since we opened in 2014. All of our food is prepared on the premises by our cook using fresh ingredients. The menus that we have are a guide as to what could be given that week. However there may be changes to the meals due to substitutions being made by the supplier or simply because of special events, for example Chinese new year.



At the Pumpkin Patch we strive to ensure our staff receive access to good quality training. We encourage the staff to identify any training they would like and we send them on the relevant training courses. This ensures all of their practice and knowledge is current and up to date. Recently fifteen staff completed of level 3 qualifications including physical and nutritional needs, promoting development and supporting outdoor play. Well done to all of the staff that successfully completed these qualifications. Many of our staff continue to further their knowledge on their own by enrolling on higher education courses. Danielle has successfully completed a team leading course. Chantelle is part way through her first year of her BA (Hons) Special Needs and Education, Zoe is in her third year of her BA (Hons) Early childhood and Education. Paige is in now her final year of her BA (Hons) Special Needs and Education and Laura T is also in her final year of her BA (Hons) Early Childhood and Education. We encourage and fully support all of our staff in their continuous professional development.

On Saturday 24th February and Saturday 3rd March 15 staff members will be renewing their First Aid qualifications, this means that on 3rd March 100% of our staff will be trained in Paediatric first aid. In April the first aid trainer will be attending nursery to talk to our children about first aid. He will be bringing in equipment and letting the children get hands on experience of first aid.



It has come to our attention that a number of children have been travelling to and from nursery without being secured in a suitable car seat. The staff have a duty of care to safeguard your children. We have the right to challenge parents who arrive at nursery with their child and are not using a suitable car seat. Children BY LAW are only exempt from using a car seat if they are travelling in a taxi and a seat is not provided.

