



The Pumpkin Patch Nursery School

Spring Newsletter 2016

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all, we hope that everybody enjoyed their break over the festive period. It is nice to see all of our children back in and ready for a new term.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new children and their families to The Pumpkin Patch Nursery School. The children have all settled in extremely well and are very happy.

Staff Changes.

We are pleased to welcome four members of staff to our ever growing team.

Julia-Anna Miele has joined us as our new Deputy Manager. She is going to be working with our 3-5 year olds in the Snack a Jacks room. Julia-Anna has a BA Hons in Early Childhood and Education and is also a qualified Nursery Nurse Assessor. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the team.

Georgia Fewkes is another new member of the Snack a Jacks team. She holds a level 2 certificate and is currently studying for her level 3.

Susan Cleary has joined the team and is working in the Baby Bears room with the 2-3 year olds. Susan is a fully qualified practitioner and holds an N.N.E.B certificate.

Marjorie Moore is our new Nursery cook, she has over ten years of experience in this role and she is looking forward to making some exciting changes to our menu.

As some of you may know, Paige is expecting a baby and will be taking maternity leave. Her last day with us before she takes her well-deserved rest will be Tuesday 12th January. We wish her all the luck in the world and we can't wait to meet her new arrival.

Term Dates for Funded Children

February Half Term

Funded children to break up for the February half term on Friday 12th February 2016 and will return to nursery on Monday 22nd February 2016.

Easter Holidays

Funded children to break up for Easter on Thursday 24th March 2016 and will return to nursery on Tuesday 12th April 2016.

May Half Term

Funded children to break up on Friday 27th May 2016 and will return on Tuesday 7th June 2016.

Dates for your diary

Monday 8th February: Chinese New Year, we will have a special Chinese style lunch today to celebrate the Year of the Monkey.

Thursday 3rd March: World book day, the children are invited to dress up as a character from their favourite book.

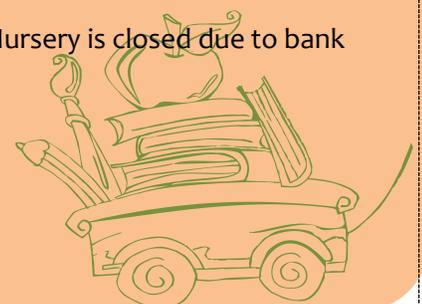
Wednesday 23rd March: Parents Evening, your child's keyworker will book an appointment slot with you nearer the time.

Friday 25th March: Nursery is closed due to bank holiday.

Monday 28th March: Nursery is closed due to bank holiday.

Monday 2nd May: Nursery is closed due to bank holiday.

Monday 30th May: Nursery is closed due to bank holiday.



Notices

Due to storage space within the nursery we are unable to accept bulk packs of nappies and wipes.

As we have a fantastic mud kitchen to explore, could all children please bring a pair of wellingtons into nursery. We provide splash suits in all sizes to protect their clothing whilst playing in the mud. If anybody has wellies they have grown out of that they would like to donate to the nursery as spares then we would be extremely grateful.

Could each parent please provide a child's backpack containing nappies, wipes, creams and spare clothes. This backpack will be kept on your child's peg in the hallway during the day and taken home to be replenished in the evenings. **Plastic bags cannot be accepted for health and safety reasons.**

Staff are unable to let afternoon children in to the building before their session starts. The door will be opened at 1.00pm.

We would like to remind parents to collect their child fifteen minutes before the session ends. This is to ensure that staff can speak to each parent about their child's day and hand over any important information if necessary.

Please can all parents ensure their child's belongings (coat, hat, and wellies) are clearly labelled with their name. This helps to avoid children taking somebody else's belongings home.

There is a board up in the entrance that shows our staff team, please take a moment to have a read. It tells you some information about who is working in each room and also about their background and experience. The board will be updated as new team members join us.

Events and ideas

Stay and Play Sessions: We are introducing a stay and play messy play session for our families. They will be held one morning a week in our lecture theatre from February and will run on a trial basis. There will be a small cost of £2.50 for a ninety minute session. These sessions will also be available during half term weeks too, please speak to Laura for further details.

Shooting Stars Soccer Academy: Rick will be returning to begin his weekly soccer training sessions with our 2-5 year olds. Please speak to Laura if you are interested in your child attending this session.

Online Learning Journey: We are looking into setting up online learning journey's for each of our children. You will be able to access your child's learning journey at any time by using an app on your phone, tablet or iPad or by signing in on a computer. This will replace your child's paper file that is in their room but it will follow on from it. We are very excited about this!

Forest School: In March we are going to look at starting a forest school session once each week with our Snack a Jacks. The woods are so close by so it gives us the perfect opportunity to do this. We will alternate the days each week so that everybody gets to have a turn.

Thank you

Suzanne, Laura and the Pumpkin Patch Team.