

# The Pumpkin Patch Nursery School



## Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As always we would like to start this newsletter by welcoming all of our new children and their families to the Pumpkin Patch Nursery School. We are so pleased with how well all of our children have settled in and how happy they seem.

### Staff

As we are in the new term we have made some slight staff changes. Jasmine has gone on maternity leave in preparation for her new arrival and we wish her lots of luck.

Paige has returned from maternity leave with her daughter Millie. We are happy to have her back. She has now taken over as the Baby Bear's room leader. Also joining the bears team is Zoe Bailey. Zoe has experience in working with children in a variety of roles within schools and nurseries and also as a mother. We are very happy that she has joined our team. Another member of our bears team who will be a familiar face to some of you already is Leah Vose. Leah has spent

time here as a student on her placements with Bury college for over a year now. She qualified with her level three certificate in July. Leah officially joined us in July this year and we are very lucky to have her. Our third new member of staff is Laura Roscoe. She has also joined the baby bears team. Laura is very experienced in working with all ages and has worked in a variety of roles including room leader and nursery manager. We are pleased to welcome her to our team.

### Orbit

All parents should have now received the letter that Laura wrote to you regarding orbit. The staff are all incredibly upset about the matter and are working hard to create galleries of your children's work and photographs of them taking part in all the lovely activities they have been doing at nursery. You can help the staff by sending in photographs with captions via email. This allows us to work in partnership with you to track the development of your child.

### Arrival and Collection

We would just like to remind parents that we are unable to allow children in before their designated start time. Children who have an agreed start time will need to wait until this time before they are allowed into the nursery. This is due to staffing levels and ratios. We would also like to politely remind parents that you need to arrive ten minutes before the end of your child's session. This is to allow your child's keyworker to pass on messages to you and for you to have the opportunity to discuss any issues with them. There is a late collection policy which is in place for persistent lateness and this is charged at a rate of £10 for every fifteen minutes.

### Clothing

As we are now heading towards Autumn and Winter can all parents ensure their children are dressed appropriately for the weather. The children have continuous access to the outdoor areas

all day and require warm clothing, coats, hats and gloves for the colder months. It would be helpful to staff if parents could clearly label their child's coat and check they are taking the correct belongings when going home.

There is a lost property box located outside the snack a jacks room. Please have a look through the box to see if any items belong to you.

### **Photographs**

The photographer is coming in to take some photographs of the children on Wednesday 9th November. He will be at nursery from 9.00am and generally stays until around 3.30pm. Children who do not attend nursery on a Wednesday are more than welcome to come along for them. If your child does attend nursery on this day then you are more than welcome to send in an outfit for them to change into for their photo.

### **Pushchairs, Prams and Bikes**

There are a large number of children coming to nursery in their pushchairs and prams. They are now becoming a fire hazard. We did set up a pram park outside but only a small number of parents have been using this. It is important that

we are able to keep the corridors clear from any obstructions in case of the event of a fire. If you can avoid bringing a pram to nursery or are able to take it home with you then we would appreciate this. We would like to remind parents that children must not bring toys from home, especially prams, bikes and scooters as we simply do not have the room for them. Thank you.

### **Fees and Lunch Money**

We would like to politely remind parents that fees need to be paid on time. There are a small number of parents who pay cash fees, if you would like the nursery bank details to set up a direct debit to make it easier then please speak to Laura or Suzanne.

Children who attend nursery on a funded place have to pay for their child's lunches and tea's. This must be handed in at the office at the start of your child's week.

### **Shooting Stars**

Rick and Sophie from Shooting Stars Soccer Academy are returning for a new term of football lessons. These lessons will take place on a Thursday afternoon and are aimed at children from the age of 2 .

Unfortunately the football is only open to children who attend on a Thursday afternoon.

The cost of these sessions are £1.50 per child.

### **Tooth brushing**

As the new children are settling in with us we will be resuming our tooth brushing within the next couple of weeks. The brushing will take place after lunch each day. Bury oral health team will be visiting the staff to provide training and support in this area. The amount of children in the borough who have had tooth decay has recently increased due to the consumption of sugary food and drinks, especially in the bury east area.

### **Mud Kitchen**

We are lucky enough to have a fantastic mud kitchen in our garden. The children have access to this facility regularly, which they love and now the weather is changing it will be even more fun. We provide the children with blue suits that cover and protect their clothing. If your child has a pair of wellies please could you bring them in to nursery so they can experience the mud kitchen. It would be fantastic

If they had a spare pair they could leave at nursery to avoid missing opportunities should they forget to bring them in. If your child has any old wellies that are too small for them that you would like to donate to nursery as spares then that would be fantastic.

### **Jack Bear and Baby Bear**

The children in the Baby Bears and Snack a Jacks rooms will all be having the opportunity to take home our bears for the weekend. Jack Bear is our Snack a Jack's bear and baby bear is the Baby Bear's Bear. Each child in these rooms will be taking the bear home over a weekend. They will come complete with a blanket, toothbrush, facecloth and diary. It is your job as parents to write about the bears adventures with your child that weekend. You can be creative (as some parents have in the past) and add photographs. If you struggle to have photos printed you can email them in to [info@ppns.co.uk](mailto:info@ppns.co.uk) and we will print them out and stick them in the diary. The bears are a fantastic way of encouraging the children to communicate with others about their lives outside of nursery. Please get involved as much as you can .

### **Happy 2nd Birthday Pumpkin Patch!**

It is hard to believe that the nursery has been open for two years. This time has flown by and we have met lots of lovely children and their families along the journey. We would like to thank you all for your continued support.

### **Dates for your Diary**

23/10/16-Break up for half term (Funded)

31/10/16-Funded children back.

09/11/16-Photographs.

16/12/16-Break up (Funded)

23/12/16 - Nursery Closes for Christmas break.

03/01/17 - Nursery Reopens, all children back.

### **Halloween**

As Halloween falls on a Monday we will be inviting all the children who attend that day to wear fancy dress. We look forward to seeing some spooktacular costumes!

### **Recognition**

Our staff are an extremely hard working group of people. They work long hours and they put everything into their work. You may not know but some of them work full time and then go to college or university in the evenings to enhance their qualifications and knowledge. They do this alongside having their own families and other commitments. We like to show recognition in our staff meetings by having a 'star of the month'. This usually goes to a member of staff who has worked hard and other staff have noticed this.

We would very much like it if parents could get involved in recognising a staff members hard work. If you feel one of our team, room leaders or management has done something for you that you think deserves recognising then please let us know by writing it on a piece of paper and posting it in the suggestions box by the front door. We can then give credit where it is due during staff meetings.

Thank You

