

February/March 2018

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a good half term break, and a warm to welcome all our new children and their families.

Session Increases for April 2018

If you would like to increase your sessions after Easter, please email or speak to me as soon as possible. Please bear in mind that this time of year is busy and some sessions are already full; it is therefore important that I know your preferences early so I can check availability and arrange staffing as necessary. Children who are turning 3 before 31st March 2018 are entitled to 15 or possibly 30 funded hours after Easter so please let me know if you are planning on increasing your hours to reflect this. I will get the Parental Contracts from the Early Years Funding team to you soon, so please come and see me if you have any questions or would like some help arranging the extra sessions.

Tapestry Online Journal

We will be using the Tapestry online journal from April for all children who will be returning to us in September 2018. We are currently trialing the system with the children who joined us in January and February but will now gradually transfer the remaining children's records to Tapestry. I will be sending information and permission letters to you all, and when we are ready to go 'live' I will also ensure you all have guides on how to access the system from your own devices. Until then we will be happy to show you your children's profiles on the iPads if you would like us to. Unfortunately we won't be adding preschool children to the system as there will only be one term left once it is properly up and running. We will however continue to contribute to the children's folders - any group photographs with preschool children will still be used in the same way; younger children's photographs will be added to their Tapestry profile but photographs with preschool children will be printed and added the preschool child's folder. Videos will be shared with parents on the camera or iPad, by showing them to parents on the device for preschool aged children or added to younger children's profiles. More information on Tapestry will follow but please feel free to ask any questions.

Fees for Next Year - 2018-2019

Jane Marshall has asked me to thank all the parents who responded to her letter regarding the options for next year's fees. She is currently collating all the information and will be replying via a letter in the next few days before the booking forms for September are issued.

Lost Property

We have again managed to accumulate several items of lost property which have yet to be claimed. Please take a look in the corner by the coat trolley for clothing and on the front table for food storage containers. Please note that unclaimed lost property is donated to charity once a term as we do not have the space to store items for longer. **Please remember to label your children's belongings so we can make sure forgotten items are returned to you.**

Activities

We always welcome family members to join in with our activities and have been extremely lucky in the past with parents and grandparents coming in to join in the fun. Please look in the blue folder on the front table to see photographs of previous activities. If you are interested in coming in to play please let us know as we would love to have you. Please also remember that we welcome all family members to come in every afternoon for story time. Just turn up at 3.50pm if you would like to join in with listening to the story but if you or any family member would like to read the story, please let us know as we would love to book you in! If your child's session ends at a different time but you would like to join us for story then please let us know as we would be happy to fit another story in at other times of the day - you can never have too many stories!

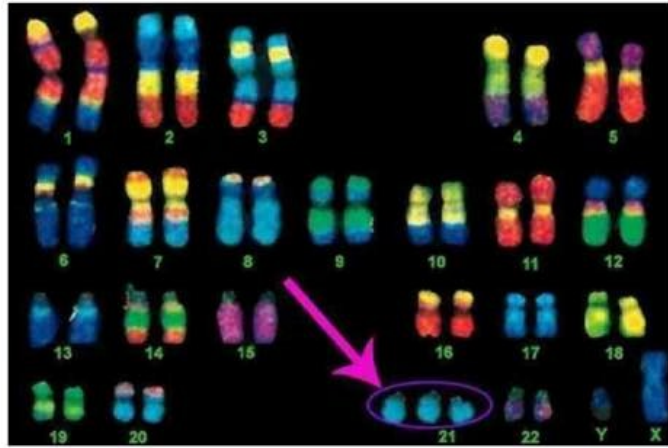
Themes for this Half Term:

This half term's theme will be 'Spring'. If you have any fabulous ideas for activities we would love to hear about them or better still we would love for you to come in and share them with us! You can speak to any member of staff to arrange activities or visits.

In addition, Poppy's parents Sarah and Tony have asked us to help them to raise awareness during Down's Syndrome Awareness Week which is 19th - 25th March. The #LotsOfSocks campaign is centered on the fact that chromosomes look like socks under the microscope. The idea is for us all to wear odd socks during that week to show that though socks, like people, may be different they can still be worn together if people accept and welcome the difference. We will therefore be celebrating our differences and having some fun at the same time! Sarah, Poppy's mum has asked me to let you know that she would be happy to answer any questions but has given us some useful links that you may like to look up:

<https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/lots-of-socks>

<https://www.ellenstumbo.com/31-facts-about-down-syndrome/>



WHY ODD SOCKS?

- UNDER A MICROSCOPE CHROMOSOMES LOOK LIKE SOCKS
- SOCKS MAY BE DIFFERENT BUT THEY ARE ALL SOCKS AND CAN BE WORN TOGETHER IF PEOPLE ACCEPT AND WELCOME THE DIFFERENCE

Remaining Term Dates 2017-2018

Spring Term 2018

19th February – **WEDNESDAY** 28th March

5 weeks 3 days

Easter Holiday Club Thursday 29th March and (Tuesday) 3rd 4th 5th 6th April and 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th April

Easter Bank Holidays -30th March and 2nd April (CLOSED)

Summer Term 2018

12 weeks 4 days

16th April - 25th May

5 weeks 4 days

(7th May Bank Holiday - CLOSED)

29th May - 1st June Half Term Holiday club

28th May – Bank Holiday (CLOSED)

4th June - 20th July

7 weeks

Summer holiday club from 23rd July – 3rd August AND 13th – 30th August 2018

CLOSED 6th-10th August, Bank Holiday Monday 27th August & Friday 31st August (staff training day)

Dates for 2018-2019 to follow

Your ideas and feedback are very important to us. Please use this space for any comments you may like to make.