

January 2016

Hello everyone, and Happy New Year! Welcome back, and a warm welcome to our new children and families. Welcome also to the new members to the Little Hands team; Tunde Molnar and Erika Bosman are joining us as our sessions are getting busier. We had a busy but lovely end to the year last term, and we hope you liked the surprises your children brought home in their Christmas folders; they worked very hard making them. We would like to say thank to you all for your kind wishes, cards and presents and hope you all had a lovely Christmas, and are ready for whatever the New Year brings.

School Admissions 2016

If your child will be 4 by 31st August you should apply for a school place by **15th January 2016**. You can apply online: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions or you can contact the admissions team (0345 0451370) for more information, but please speak to me if you need any help.

New Contact Details

Our new land line number is **01954 710656**; this will gradually replace the existing mobile number, so please use the new number to contact us. You can still of course email me at lh.bourn@gmail.com.

It is very important that we have your up to date contact numbers in case we need to reach you in an emergency so please let me know whenever there are changes.

Spanishtastic

Our weekly Spanish sessions have become very popular. I joined in a session last term and was very impressed with how much the children have been learning and how much fun they had. Clare, who runs the half hour session at 11.30am every Wednesday morning, has a few spaces left so please let me know if you would like your child to join in. The sessions are £3 per week and bookings are half termly, although you are welcome to join part way through and pay for the remaining sessions. Your child does not have to attend on a Wednesday to join in; Clare is happy for you come along and join in the group with your child.

Cambridge University Research Study

Elaine Gray, a PhD student from Cambridge University is conducting a study and has invited some of our 3-4 year olds to take part. If you were given an invitation last term and would like your child to be included in the study, please read, sign, and return the consent form by **Friday 8th January**.

February Half Term Holiday Club

If you would like to book a place for your child for the February half term Holiday Club, please complete a booking form, which you will find in the red folder on the front table, by **Friday 15th January**. Bookings handed in after this date cannot be guaranteed.

Fees

The invoices were handed out before Christmas and payment is due by **Friday 15th January**. Fees not paid on time will incur a late payment charge of £20, unless special arrangements have been made with me, so please talk to me if you have any worries.

The nursery bank details for those who wish to pay online are:

Bank HSBC
Sort Code 40 16 59
Account Number 60037524

Please remember to send an email notification to our Business Manager, at janemarshall@littlehands.co.uk and enter your child's name and 'Bourn' as a reference to ensure that your payment is allocated correctly. This is to avoid any confusion with payments meant for other families with the same surname at one of the other Little Hands nurseries.

Activities

Our activities are based on the children's interests so please let us know if your child has any interests that we can incorporate into the planning. We have been extremely lucky to have some wonderful activities run by parents and grandparents. Please feel free to look through the blue folder on the front table to see photos of previous activities and let us know if you would like to come in to share your skills and interests with us. Please also let us know of any festivals or celebrations that your family participates in as we would like to mark these as authentically as possible, using your knowledge and experiences. In addition, we welcome all parents and family members to join us for story-time at the end of each day; the door opens at 3.50pm for those who would like to join us. Please try to be on time as latecomers can disrupt the story and the children's concentration.

Planning for this Half Term

Spring Term 1st half

6 Weeks

Staying Safe: Friends

Week 1

4th – 8th Jan

Fairy-tales and Magic – This week will be all about our favourite stories. The children can come in dressed up as their favourite characters or choose from the costumes we have at nursery. **Parents, siblings, grandparents and family members are welcome to come in to read the story. We have a family story time every day at 3.50pm but if you would like to read the story at any other time this can be arranged so let us know and bring your favourite story!**

Week 2

11th-15th Jan

Space & Time - we will making rockets, planets and spaceships and talking about time (including the concepts of past, present and future), making clocks and maybe even a little bit of time travel...who knows!

Week 3

18th -22nd Jan

Friends – We will be talking about our friends and what we like about them. We will write out compliments to our friends for our compliments tree, make friendship bracelets, draw pictures of our friends and play ring games

together. **We would also like to invite you to our very popular Breakfast Morning on Thursday 21st January. Please bring a plate of your favourite breakfast food and join us between 9am and 10am. If your child doesn't usually attend on a Thursday morning you are still welcome to come along and join us!**

Week 4
26th -30th Jan

Pets & Animals – this week we will be learning about pets and animals. **We would like to invite you to bring your pets in to meet the children.** In the past we have had all creatures from horses to stick insects and it would be really good for the children to learn about different animals, what they eat, and how to care for them.

Week 5
1st -5th Feb

Indoor Sports Day – We will not let the weather stop us from being physical! This week we will be bringing the outdoors in and having some indoor sports fun; this includes obstacle courses, skittles, and ride-on toys. The children will be learning about healthy eating and exercise and how it can affect their bodies (making them strong, making them feel tired etc.) and how to keep safe when moving indoors.

Week 6
8th-12th Feb

Chinese New Year – Year of the Monkey (8th February)
We will be learning about Chinese New Year traditions, learning to do the dragon dance, making New Year lanterns and a giant monkey. Shuk-Yee, Alex's mummy has kindly offered to come in and help us with the festivities but, the more the merrier, so please let me know if you would like to come in to help us too.

If you can and would like to contribute to any of these activities please let us know.

Term dates 2015 – 2016

Spring Term 2016	11 weeks
4th January – 12th February	6 weeks

15th – 19th February Half Term Holiday Club

22nd February – 24 th March	4 weeks 4 days
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Easter Holiday Club 29th 30th 31st March 1st April and 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th April
Easter Bank Holidays -25th and 28th March

Summer Term 2016	13 weeks
11th April - 27th May	6 weeks 4 days
(2nd May Bank Holiday - Closed)	

30th May - 3rd June Half Term Holiday Club

6th June - 19th July	6 weeks & 2 days
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Summer holiday club 20th July for possible 6 weeks – dates TBC