

January 2015

Hello everyone, and Happy New Year! Welcome back to all, and a warm welcome to our new children and families. 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. As usual we have lots planned this half term - you will find the details at the end of this newsletter.

Staff News

We said goodbye to Nicky at the end of last term who is leaving us to work as a 1:1 teaching assistant in a primary school; we all wish her well in her new job and will miss her lots. We will be saying hello again to Rachel Speake; she is coming back to us after being at Little Hands in Melbourn. I would also like to welcome Heather Wadsworth to our team; Heather will be working on Mondays and Wednesdays and some of you may remember her as 'Toby's mummy' before he went to primary school last summer.

School Admissions 2015

If your child will be 4 by 31st August you should apply for a school place now. Please remember that the closing date for applications is **15th January 2015**. You can apply online: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions or contact your local school. If you would like to contact the admissions team, their telephone number is: 0345 0451370; I have a few spare guides if you haven't applied yet and would like one, so please speak to me if you need any help.

Fees

Invoices are dated from the first day of each half term; all payments must be paid within two weeks, or a late payment charge for £20 will be added, unless special arrangements have been made with me, so please talk to me if you have any worries. All invoices were handed out last term so please let me know if you have not received one. Please note that payments are due by **Friday 16th January 2015**.

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

Bank	HSBC
Sort Code	40 16 59
Account Number	60037524

Please note these are new details so if you have the old details saved please change them to the above. Please also remember to send an email notification to Jane Marshall, the nursery proprietor, 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.

Contact Details

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. A reminder of our contact details should you need to contact us are below:

Telephone: 07708 061575

Email: lh.bourn@gmail.com

Bedtime Stories Friday 23rd January 2015

We are teaming up with Shital Boden (Gabriel's mummy) to put together a fundraising evening for Cancer Research. Katherine Jackson from Vital Spark Theatre has kindly agreed to read the story for us. We have known Katherine for many years now as her children both came to Little Hands and she is the wonderful lady who dresses up as a bee, a pirate or a superhero for our leavers' parties every year; we can guarantee that she can make a story come to life! She and Shital will be choosing the story so it will be a surprise even to us, but please come along and help us raise money for this very worthy cause. A few of us have lost loved ones to cancer, so we felt we wanted to do something to raise some money to support the wonderful research that is already helping so many. Please come along in your pyjamas or onesies, with your families and enjoy some hot chocolate, marshmallows and of course a bedtime story! Please look out for our poster which will give more details nearer the time. We are asking for a minimum donation of £2.50 per family, and will need to issue tickets on a 'first come, first served' basis so please complete and return the attached slip with your donation.

February Half Term Holiday Club

We are hoping to open every day of the forthcoming half term for Holiday Club (week beginning Monday 16th February), but as always this depends on the demand for spaces. Please therefore complete the booking form attached to the end of this newsletter by **Friday 23rd January** so that I can finalise the sessions and the staffing in time.

Activity Planning

Our planning is based on the children's interests so please let us know if your child has any particular interests that we can incorporate into the planning. We have always 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

5th – 9th Jan

Fairy-tales and Magic – This includes our customary staff panto (oh yes it does!) with a 'Frozen' theme. We will be making a 'Frozen' scene using ice and glitter, talking about our favourite fairy-tales, making castles out of junk modelling materials, and also talking about winter and making winter themed creations.

Week 2

12th-16th Jan

Making Friends – We will be talking about being kind to each other, taking turns and learning the names of the new children joining us. We would like to continue to encourage the children to bring in their 'me boxes' to share with their friends so I have asked the staff to prepare theirs too. Please bring in any photographs that your children may like to share with us showing them having fun with their friends and family. We will also be making up a display of compliments that we will be giving to each other (so get practicing)!

Week 3

19th -23rd Jan

Favourite Stories - This week we are encouraging the children to bring in their favourite story books for us to read, better still we would love it if you would like to come in to read the story; story times will be at 11.50am, 12.50pm, 2.30pm, and 3.50pm – please let me know if you would like to read us a story and we can book you in! We will also be writing and illustrating our own stories (made up or from our favourite books). We would also like to invite you to a Bedtime Story evening in aid of Cancer Research on Friday 23rd January. Please save the date and look out for a poster with the full details – we have a special guest lined up to read the story...

Week 4

26th -30th Jan

Cooking Week – Each day the children will be making something tasty to take home or to eat at snack time. The staff will be choosing a recipe each to share and follow with the children; this will give them a perfect opportunity to learn lots of new skills as well as having lots of fun and trying new food. In addition, (and bearing no significance to the week's theme), we have a visit from the Cambridgeshire Constabulary on Tuesday 27th January at 10.30am where the children will have the chance to find out about the job of a Police Officer and have a look inside the Police Car. If your child doesn't usually attend on a Tuesday morning you are still welcome to join us with your child at 10.30am in the car park.

Week 5

2nd -6th 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, ride-on toys. The children will be learning about the healthy practice of 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

9th-13th Feb

Things I like and things I don't like – This week we will be talking about things and people we like and love and also talking about things we don't like (I don't like sprouts but I love Marmite...). We will be making a 'love tree' for our garden by asking the children to dictate messages to us which we will laminate and hang on a tree outside. We will also be talking 'PANTS' following the NSPCC's Campaign (please visit www.nspcc.org for more details and look out for our posters too).

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

Term dates 2014 – 2015

Spring Term 2015

11 weeks

5th January – 13th February

6 weeks

16th – 20th February

Half Term Holiday Club

23rd February – 27th March

5 weeks

30th & 31st March, 1st & 2nd April, 7th – 10th April

Easter Holiday Club

Easter Bank Holidays – 3rd & 6th April (NURSERY CLOSED)

Summer Term 2015

13 weeks

13th April - 22nd May

5 weeks 4 days

4th May Bank Holiday – NURSERY CLOSED

26th – 29th May

Half Term Holiday Club

25th May Bank Holiday (NURSERY CLOSED)

1st June - 20th July

7 weeks & 1 day

Summer Holiday Club (Dates to be confirmed)

HOLIDAY CLUB – February Half Term 2015

Child(ren)'s Name(s) _____

We can accept children from ages 2 – 8, so older siblings and their friends are also welcome

Sessions required (please circle):

Monday 16/02 9-10 10-11 11-12 12-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-4.30

Tuesday 17/02 9-10 10-11 11-12 12-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-4.30

Wednesday 18/02 9-10 10-11 11-12 12-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-4.30

Thursday 19/02 9-10 10-11 11-12 12-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-4.30

Friday 20/02 9-10 10-11 11-12 12-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-4.30

Please return by Friday 23rd January

Please use this space to let us know which toys or activities your child would like for Holiday Club so we can incorporate them in our planning:

Bedtime Story Evening - 23rd January 2015

Family name:

Number of People:

Donation (minimum £2.50 enclosed) yes/no

Confirmation Slip for Bedtime Story Evening Friday 23rd January 2015

Family Name:

Number of People:

Please use this space for any comments/suggestions: