

February 2015

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a good half term break and a warm to welcome all our new children and their families. It's a short half term, but as always it's going to be busy.

Firstly, an update on staff news; Gill our Deputy Manager returned to nursery last half term and we are so happy to have her back. Heather, who started after Christmas and has been an extremely valuable member of the team, will be leaving at the end of February - but the good news is that we may still see her from time to time as she has said she will come back as cover staff if needed. Another bit of good news is that Shanice Cooper, who was here on work experience last year while completing her Level 2 Diploma, is back for a few weeks whilst working towards her Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care. Edel and Rachael are well on their way to completing their Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce, so good luck to them both on this last bit and well done so far!

September 2015 Booking Forms

Many of you will have received the September 2015 booking forms that I handed out at the end of last half term; our current children and their siblings have priority on bookings as long as forms are returned by Friday 27th March. From 13th April I will be sending booking forms out to children on the waiting list. I will confirm sessions booked from 11th May, but please note that changes can only be made up to 22nd May. After this date, all sessions booked on the September booking form will be charged in full for the first half of the autumn term. If you haven't received a booking form and would like one please let me know; your child's current sessions are **not** automatically renewable from September and a booking form is therefore necessary for those sessions to be booked again.

Session Increases for April 2015

If you would like to increase your sessions after Easter, please complete the slip at the bottom of this newsletter and return to me as soon as possible. Please bear in mind that this year has been extremely busy and the morning sessions are currently full; there are spaces available in the afternoons but it is important that I know your preferences early so I can arrange staffing as the afternoons are also busier than in previous years. Children who are turning 3 before 31st March 2015 are entitled to 15 funded hours after Easter. I will be sending out the Parental Contracts from the Early Years Funding team as soon as they are available to me, but please come and see me if you have any questions or would like some help arranging the extra sessions.

Fees

The invoices went out last half term but if you haven't received one please speak to me. Please pay your fees promptly; there is a two week payment period, after which a late payment charge of £20 will automatically be added. The last day for payment is **Friday 6th March**, unless prior arrangements have been made with me. Little Hands' preferred method of payment is by direct online payment into the nursery account (details below). When making the payment please remember to send a notification to janemarshall@littlehands.co.uk quoting 'Bourn', your child's name, and the amount paid.

HSBC Bank

Sort Code: 401659

Account No. 60037524

Car Park

Please be mindful when parking in the car park, even if you are only quickly dropping off or collecting children. Please do not use the disabled parking space as Blue Badge holders have informed me that the spaces are often occupied by vehicles without a Blue Badge.

Holiday Club – Easter Holiday

I am hoping to run Holiday Club sessions through the Easter holidays. As this is such a short half term I need to know numbers quite quickly so that I can arrange staffing; please complete the booking form attached to this newsletter and return it by **Wednesday 4th March**. Holiday Club sessions are booked on a 'supply/demand' basis, taking into account parents' needs for childcare during the holiday periods. The hourly rate is £5.75 (the same as a nursery session), children from ages 2-8 are welcome so older siblings can come too. The activities and sessions are planned purely around the children's interests and ideas and the emphasis is on fun!

Activities and Planning

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 with our activities. 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!

Planning

A rough guide of activities for this half term is below and a copy is kept on the parents' notice board on the gate in the foyer but **please look out for more details of some of our events on the parents' notice boards in the foyer.**

Spring Term 2nd half

Week 1

23rd -27th Feb

Chinese New Year (Year of the Sheep)

Chloe's mummy, and Lucy's mummy have kindly offered to come in to help us; we will be making and tasting Chinese food, making dragons (big ones and little ones), dancing to Chinese music and learning to count to 10 in Cantonese (thank you Chloe's mummy for the number cards)!

Week 2

2nd -6th Mar

Recycling Week & St David's Day (1st March)

Back by popular demand...we will start the week off with NO toys and we will make our own. Please bring in any materials that you think may be useful. We are also collecting egg boxes to make some daffodils to mark St David's Day, as well as making leek and potato soup and learning about and playing rugby. If you would like to come in to help with any of these activities we would love you to join us.

Week 3

9th -13th Mar

Our Mummies (Mothers' Day, 15th March)

I'm not going to say too much about this week except we will be making things...it's a surprise!

Week 4

16th -20th Mar

Grandparents' Week & St Patrick's Day (17th March)

We would like to invite the children's grandparents to come in to join in the fun; you could read us a story, join in with the day's activities, teach us some new songs, or just join us for lunch. If this week is not convenient for you, you are welcome to join us at any other time too! Just

let us know when you would like to join in and what you would like to do.
We will also be making Bosti (potato cake) to mark St Patrick's Day, and Edel promises us that there are pots of gold at the end of the rainbow so we will be making some!

Week 5
23rd -27th March

Easter

We will be having lots of Easter themed fun and crafts including an Easter egg hunt; we will also be attempting to make Hot Cross Buns so wish us luck!

In addition to these activities this half term we will also be following the Staying Safe in the Foundation Stage Curriculum looking at the area of Road Safety. This will be introduced through group discussions and role play.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2015

23rd February – 27th March 5 weeks

Easter Holiday Club 30th & 31st March, 1st & 2nd April, 7th – 10th April
Easter Bank Holidays 3rd & 6th April (Closed)

Summer Term 2015 13 weeks
13th April - 22nd May 5 weeks 4 days
(4th May bank holiday - closed)

25th – 29th May *Half Term Holiday Club*

1st June - 20th July 7 weeks & 1 day

Summer holiday club from 21st July (dates to be confirmed)

I would like to increase sessions for my child: _____

My preferred sessions are: _____

Signed..... Date.....

HOLIDAY CLUB – Easter 2014

Child(ren)'s
Name(s) _____

We can accept children from ages 2 – 8

Sessions required (please circle):

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------------------------------|------|-------|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Monday | 30/03 | 8.30-9 | 9-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 | 12-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-4.30 |
| Tuesday | 31/03 | 8.30-9 | 9-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 | 12-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-4.30 |
| Wednesday | 01/04 | 8.30-9 | 9-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 | 12-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-4.30 |
| Thursday | 02/04 | 8.30-9 | 9-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 | 12-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-4.30 |
| Friday | 03/04 | CLOSED – GOOD FRIDAY | | | | | | | | |
| Monday | 06/04 | CLOSED – EASTER MONDAY | | | | | | | | |
| Tuesday | 07/04 | 8.30-9 | 9-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 | 12-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-4.30 |
| Wednesday | 08/04 | 8.30-9 | 9-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 | 12-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-4.30 |
| Thursday | 09/04 | 8.30-9 | 9-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 | 12-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-4.30 |
| Friday | 10/04 | 8.30-9 | 9-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 | 12-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-4.30 |

Please complete and return by FRIDAY 6th MARCH

Please ask your child for their ideas for activities and resources, write them down here and return this slip with your booking.