

Spring 1st Half Newsletter.

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year. We hope you had a lovely festive restful break, we did and we are now back with a spring in our step ready to have another term full of fun and adventure.

As always we are following our playing and learning in the moment which since we started this last September has seen our children become even more engaged and occupied and learning lots of different skills, however we are looking at what other opportunities we can offer them. Just before Christmas we headed over to the Care home opposite and the children did a little singing performance of all the Christmas songs they had been learning. It was such a success and enjoyed so much by all the ages that we have decided to see if we can visit and do some little activities on a regular basis, I'm really hoping that this will be the start of something really lovely....when we have some idea of how we will do this I will send an email home to keep you all informed.

One of the other opportunities that we would like to offer is a regular outside adventure with a slight forest school feel, we will be starting this small and giving everybody the opportunity to have a go but will look to expand this activity as the year progresses.

Lots to look forward to so please watch this space!!

Goodbye and Hello

We have said goodbye to Lynn and we really wish her well in her new adventures and look forward to hearing all about them when she pops in to see us.

Abbi and Kirsty have started with us this term and they will be in both rooms so most of you will get to meet them over the next couple of weeks, the children are as always best friends with them already! I will update the boards and put up all our new staff so everyone can see who's who.

Themes

We have been asking the children in the nursery what things they like doing and they have come up with some lovely ideas about our themes this term, please pick up a sharing sheet from the foyer to see what each room is doing.

Illness

Our policy for the dreaded sickness and diarrhoea bug is 48 hours away from Nursery. Please don't bring your child into nursery until they have had 48 hours since their last bout, we have had a real run of it last term with children and staff and we would like to try to keep it at bay as much as we can. I really appreciate your support in this as I know how difficult this can be especially as normally after 24 hours they are bouncing around looking fine!!

For all other illnesses we follow the latest guidelines from NHS Direct which does change from time to time so if you are worried about whether to bring your child in then please do check the website. **If you have had to give your child any medication to help them get through the day ie Calpol then we would ask you to not bring them in that day.**

E-mail address

Our e-mail address is lh-melbourn@btconnect.com and lhmelbourn1@gmail.com if you would like to contact us in this way. Please note that the emails are not always checked if we are busy so if your query is urgent then please phone us instead.

PAYMENT OF FEES

Little Hands preferred payment methods are direct bank payments or Childcare vouchers. Payments should be made within 2 weeks of the invoice date or a late pay fee of £20 will be added. Alternative payment arrangements (cheque or cash) or timings may be possible please speak to the nursery manager in advance

Direct Bank Payments

Fees can be paid directly into the nursery bank account either at a bank/post office or via Internet banking. The nursery bank details are:

Bank:	HSBC
Sort Code:	401659
Account Number:	60037524

The payment should be referenced with your child's name and written notification emailed to Jane Marshall little.hands@icloud.com stating your child's name, payment amount and date payment has been made; this is essential to prevent payments being mistakenly attributed to the wrong family. If email is not an option the written notification can be given as a note/letter to the nursery manager.

Weather and clothes

Please make sure that you bring in a change of clothes as it gets very muddy in our garden.

As the starts to get colder and wetter we ask that the children please have the appropriate outside gear, coats, hats, wellies. If you have waterproofs these are great as they keep the children so much drier while they are playing. The outside door is almost always open so it is essential too that the children have warm clothes on in Nursery we prefer layers as we can always peel off a layer if they get too warm. PLEASE MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS LABELLED FROM CLOTHES TO PACKED LUNCH BOXES!! The children quite often have the identical things to each other and if you label things they won't get lost!

Collection of children

Please note that our pick up times are **12, 1.00, 3.00, 4.00 and 4.30** if you come at any other time then please be patient if we don't open the door straight away, we are often in numbers with the children and can't leave to open the door until we have made sure the children are safe, if you can stick to our pick up times (or as close as possible) it would be greatly appreciated.

Our opening hours are 8.30 am until 4.30 pm, please make sure you are here to pick up your child by 4.30 or let us know as soon as you can if you are going to be a few minutes late so we can prepare your child that you will be a few minutes late picking up.

I know the pick up time can be tricky for lots of you but please remember we actually close at 4.30 and we need the children picked up and off the premises as close to that as possible, we then have to tidy up and get set up for the next day. Lots of us also have to go and pick up our own children and we often end up being late for them.

As our policy states we will charge a late fee for parents that are late picking upon a regular basis.

Lastly

Tuesdays and Thursdays I will be in numbers but if you leave me a message I will get back to you. I try to answer everyone as you ask me things but sometimes if I have been in with the children a lot in the week I may not be able to get back to you straight away please do ask me again if your waiting for a reply.

February Half term holiday 18th – 22nd February

The February holiday club will run for five full days from 8.30-4.30pm. As usual, all siblings over 2 years and under 8 years of age are welcome to join us during the holiday club.

During holiday club we plan sessions using the Early Years Foundation Stage as guidance. We have flexible planning so that we can plan and work with the children's current interests. If you have any ideas which we could use then please let us know.

Please make sure that I have your booking forms back in by 16th January 2019

The fees must be paid by **19th Februaury** otherwise a late pay penalty of **£20.00** will be added.

The fees are:

£6.60 per hour unless your child is claiming Early Years Funding for the holiday club when the lunch session will be £9.70 per hour for our 3 and 4 year olds. £6.70 an hour for our 2's and under.

Once the sessions have been confirmed they cannot be cancelled or reduced and the fees are payable in full.

It will be at the manager's discretion to decide whether the sessions booked are viable.

If you have any problems or if you require any information about holiday club please see Sharon or Courteney.

Booking form for February holiday club.

I would like to book the following sessions:

Child's name.....

Monday 18th February	8.30 9.00 12.00 1.00 3.00 4.00 4.30
Tuesday 19th Februaury	8.30 9.00 12.00 1.00 3.00 4.00 4.30
Wednesday 20th Februaury	8.30 9.00 12.00 1.00 3.00 4.00 4.30
Thursday 21st February	8.30 9.00 12.00 1.00 3.00 4.00 4.30
Friday 22nd Februaury	8.30 9.00 12.00 1.00 3.00 4.00 4.30