

Little Hands Nursery School Linton & Bartlow September 2014

Autumn Term (1) News letter

Contact details:

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Unit 5, Three Hills Farm, Bartlow, Cambs, CB21 4EN

Hours of opening Monday – Friday 8am until 6pm

Welcome back to the new academic year and we hope that you have had a fun filled, happy summer break and ready to tell us what you have been doing. We are very pleased to say hello and welcome to our new starters and their families as they join us at Little Hands this term.

Staff

There have been no changes to our staff team this term. However, as children and staff change sessions for the new academic year then we review our key worker list. Below is your child's key worker.

_____ key worker is _____ .

Topic

Our topic this half term is Noah's Ark and Harvest

The weekly focus is as follows:

Week 1	Settling in and routines	<u>Staying Safe theme</u> Family/friend relationships
Weeks 2, 3 & 4	Noah's Ark	Safety Circle of family people
Weeks 6 & 7	Harvest and Sukkot	A wider Safety Circle

Sukkot is a Jewish celebration, celebrating the harvest of the land in Israel.

Staying safe themes are followed every other week. We will use our Persona doll Gordon, to deliver these messages to the children.

Your child may bring items in for the topic to show us. Can we please ask that any other toys brought in, other than comforters, are shown to staff and friends and then taken home with you. Last year we had mislaid toys that caused some upset.

Nursery Expansion

Over the last week of the summer holidays we have had extensive work carried out in our kitchen so that we can now provide hot meals for children in the late afternoon who are staying from 4.30pm onwards. Due to health and hygiene reasons, the office is now temporarily situated in the small back room, therefore we are asking parents/carers to use the front door for drop off and pick up times temporarily.

In the near future (November), we will be opening a baby unit. We have acquired a building that will allow us to join the existing part of the nursery. The office will then be permanently based in the middle of the buildings.

In the short term we would like to reassure parents/carers that this will not effect group times. Children will still split between 'Caterpillars and Butterflies', in the main nursery room. If you have any concerns, thoughts or questions please do not hesitate to talk to Mandy.

Term Dates

We have attached the term dates to the newsletter for the whole academic year. If you mislay them please remember you can access them and the news letter on Little Hands website.

Half term holiday club booking forms will be available shortly. Please ask if you require one.

Invoices

Invoices should be paid by FRIDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2014.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with payment then please speak to Mandy in confidence.

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

Bank	HSBC
Sort Code	40 16 08
Account Number	31615947

Please remember to send a notification by email to Jane Marshall, the nursery proprietor, at janemarshall@littlehands.co.uk and enter your child's name and 'Linton' 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

If any of the details about your child has changed, particularly telephone contact numbers, since you filled in our Admission Form then please inform Mandy of the changes.

Staff achievements

All staff over the academic year attend courses provided by Cambridgeshire County Council to update knowledge and skills. This year 2 members of staff have undertaken courses to further their qualifications. Michelle has acquired her CACHE Diploma Level 3 in Early Years and Mandy her Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Studies and Early Years Teaching Status.

Guinea Pigs

For children who are returning after the summer holiday we have some sad news. Marmite passed away over the August bank holiday. After consideration and Peanut looking lonely we have a new resident, he is a 4 week old guinea pig named Squirrel. Squirrel is slowly being introduced to Peanut and when we are confident that they can co habit the guinea pigs will again be able to come home with the children for visits.

Illness

Please can we remind parents that your child should not be attending nursery if you have had to give them Calpol or other fever reducing medicine. They will not be well enough to cope with a session.

Notes from Parent/Carer in Bag

We do not normally look in children's bags. If you send information or replies in then please hand them to a member of staff or, if another adult is bringing your child in then ask them to give any notes, etc to staff.

Lunch Boxes

Please remember to clearly label lunch boxes on the outside and drink bottles with your child's name. It is very hard for cover members of staff to know which things belong to which child and our own members of staff change over during lunch times.

Parent/Carer Feedback

We are always keen to have comments and suggestions from you that may improve the quality of care and education we provide for your children. If you wish to remain anonymous then please put your comment or suggestion in an envelope and put in our post box at the entrance gate.

Children's Development Records

For children returning to us after the summer break their records will be updated and given out the week commencing 15th September for you to look at and share with any other settings they attend. Please could they be returned by Monday 29th September.

Weather/Clothing

As we are aware the weather is still unpredictable at the moment, please ensure children have sun cream applied when appropriate before each session (we will re apply for children staying all day). If possible we would also like to ask that children's clothes are named.

Photographs of children

Just a reminder we use photographs of your child in their record, however at times to get the full picture of what is occurring other children may be in the photograph. Please let Mandy or Caroline know if you **do not** wish your child to be in another child's records, we will assume we have your permission otherwise.

Parent Involvement

Parents are always welcome at Little Hands to join in part or all of a session. If you have a particular skill or interest that you would like to share with the children then please speak to Mandy or Caroline to organise a visit.

*We look forward to the Autumn Term ahead and new beginnings for
Little Hands Nursery School Linton and Bartlow*

Squirrel

Mandy, Caroline, Linda, Joyce, Natalie, Michelle.

Term dates 2014 - 2015

	Term weeks	Funded weeks
Autumn Term 2014	14 weeks	14 weeks
Monday 8th September - 24th October	7 weeks	
27th - 31st October half term holiday club		
3rd November - 19th December	7 weeks	
Christmas holiday club 22nd and 23rd December		
Spring Term 2015	11 weeks	11 weeks
5th January - 13th February 6 weeks		
16th - 20th February half term holiday club		
23rd February - 27th March	5 weeks	

Easter holiday club 30th & 31st March 1st & 2nd April Easter bank holidays 3rd & 6th April
7th - 10th April

Summer Term 2015

13 weeks

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