

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017.

Welcome back after the Easter holiday, we hope you had a nice spring break.

Jo has decided to leave Little Hands to work in another childcare setting and we wish her well in the future.

Alice Barlow will be joining us for the summer term and we hope that she enjoys her time with the children at nursery.

Sophie Winter will be working at all four of the Little Hands Nurseries for the summer term and over the summer holidays covering where she is needed while she is not at university. Sophie used to attend the nursery when she was younger and we are delighted to welcome her back.

Themes

The theme the first week will be Staying Safe – PANTS (see below) and week four will be Peppa Pig's Muddy Puddle Walk (Save the Children event)

The themes for the other weeks will be based on the children's interests which will be decided during the half term. We will notify you of the themes on the parents' notice board in the entrance hall.

Week 1 Staying Safe- PANTS

Learning Intention: Personal, Social and Emotional

Week 2 Children's Interest

Learning Intention: Communication and Language

Week 3 Children's Interest

Learning Intention: Physical

Week 4 Peppa Pig's Muddy Puddle Walk (Save the Children event)

Learning Intention: Understanding the World

Week 5 Children's Interest

Learning Intention: Mathematics

Week 6 Children's Interest

Learning Intention: Expressive Arts and Design

Please remember that we like to provide a wide range of "messy" activities for the children so please dress your child in suitable clothing.

TERM DATES:

Summer Term:

Term begins on Tuesday 18th April to Friday 26th May.

Nursery will be closed on May Day 1st May.

Half term holiday club is for one week beginning 29th May.

Second half of the Summer term begins Monday 5th June to Friday 21st July.

We will then open for the Summer holiday club.

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 janemarshall@littlehands.co.uk 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.

Childcare Vouchers

Working parents can choose to pay using Childcare Vouchers if their employer is part of a voucher scheme. Voucher payments are popular as they are exempt of tax & national insurance deductions. The voucher company should be instructed to notify the nursery by e-mail when the payment is due so that individual payments can be correctly tracked.

Cheque payments

Cheques should be made payable to Little Hands Nursery.

Cheques are banked in the week following the payment period (two weeks after the invoice date.) Please note that cheque payments made outside the payment period may be not be banked until the following half term. Nursery will pass all bank charges incurred from un-cleared cheques to the parents.

E-mail address

Our e-mail address is lh-newton@btconnect.com if you would like to contact us in this way.

Ofsted Inspection

On Wednesday 8th March 2017 we had an Ofsted Inspection at the nursery.

We were inspected in four different areas and I am delighted to inform you that we received a judgement of **OUTSTANDING in all four areas. We are all so pleased that the report recognised the hard work and dedication of the staff and also that we have such lovely children who are interested in learning in the nursery.**

If you would like to see a full copy of the inspection report there is a copy in the entrance hall on the notice board and the report will be posted on the Ofsted web site.

If you require any further information or have any questions then please speak to Sheila.

Booking forms for September 2017.

Please consider carefully how many sessions your child will need for the whole school year as in many instances, it was not possible to increase the number of sessions for all the children wishing to do so this year. This is particularly important when your child becomes eligible for Early Years Funding as many parents wish to increase sessions at this point.

Please return any outstanding bookings forms as soon as possible as several sessions are already becoming very busy.

30 hours funded childcare.

The new entitlement for 30 hours funded childcare starts in September 2017. In order to access the funded childcare, families will have to apply to the HMRC to check whether they are eligible or not. If they are eligible then HMRC will issue them with a code which will be required by the nursery. Some parents may already have a letter inviting them to apply. The website for you to make an application for the 30 hours entitlement and Tax Free Childcare is www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/. The process should only take about 20 minutes online. Further information will follow when we receive it from local government.

Attendance

Please let us know verbally, by phone or by email if your child is not going to be attending nursery if they are unwell, on holiday etc. We are required by Early Years to monitor children's absences from nursery.

Sainsbury's Schools Vouchers

We are collecting the Sainsbury's Schools vouchers. A collecting box is in the entrance hall so please spend lots of money and collect as many as possible.

Dad's Week and other significant males (or females) (12th - 16th June)

We would like to invite any Dad or other person to join us at nursery to spend an hour (it can be longer) at the nursery with your child during the week beginning the 12th June. This can be at the beginning or end of the session if this fits in best with your work schedule. You might like your child to show you around the nursery, read a story to the children, play on the computer, paint or draw or play outside. You may prefer to share any particular skill you may have with the children. If you would like to come into the nursery please speak to Sheila or Lisa to arrange a date and time.

PANTS – The Underwear Rule.

The children in preschool will be learning about the Underwear Rule – PANTS in week one of the summer term. The younger children will be talking about PANTS in an age appropriate way during their circle time.

The NSPCC’s “Talk PANTS” campaign is a new fun way of helping children to keep safe by learning simple “underwear rules”. Clear safeguarding messages such as “privates are private” and “talk about secrets that upset you”, are designed to help parents and carers to find the right words to start talking openly to children about keeping safe.

The Underwear Rule

(From the NSPCC – website -www.nspcc.org.uk/underwearrule).

Each line of PANTS covers a different part of the Underwear Rule and provides a simple but valuable lesson that can keep a child safe.

P – Privates are private.

A – Always remember that your body belongs to you.

N – No means no.

T – Talk about secrets that upset you.

S – Speak up, someone can help.

Please could all children in preschool bring in a pair of named pants from home for the “circle time” session that week?

Further printed information on PANTS is displayed in the entrance hall. We already have posters in the toilet area in the nursery. If you have any questions regarding the topic please speak to Sheila or Lisa.

Photographer

The photographer will be visiting nursery on Tuesday 16th May and Thursday 18th May. He will be available to take photographs from 8.30– 10.00am on both days. He will take individual photographs on these days and also group photographs. If your child does not attend on these days please feel free to come in between 8.30am– 10.00am to have their photograph taken and if you would like siblings in the photo please bring them along too. Please fill in the form at the bottom of this newsletter if you would like your child to have a photograph taken. Group photos will be taken at approx. 10.00am.

Parents evening

We will be holding a parents evening on Tuesday 13th June 2017 from 7- 8.30 pm. If you require an appointment with either the session leader or your child’s key worker please return the form at the end of this newsletter as soon as possible or speak to Sheila or Lisa.

Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone who supported our fund raising efforts for Red Nose Day. We are still collecting the money but we will let you know the amount raised as soon as we can.

Peppa Pig’s Muddy Puddle Walk (Save the Children event)

We are going to hold sponsored Peppa Pig Muddy Puddle Walks during the week beginning 8th May 2017. A sponsorship form will be sent out to you shortly and we hope that you will support this very worthwhile cause. If the weather is kind to us and it doesn’t rain then we will create some puddles of our own.

Weather

It is advisable to apply sunscreen to your child before bringing them to nursery. Cancer Research UK recommend factor 15 or higher. If your child attends for four hours or less it will not be necessary for the sunscreen to be reapplied at nursery. If your child attends a full day please send a named bottle of sunscreen to nursery with them and we will help your child reapply the cream before afternoon play. We are not able to apply a “general use” sunscreen to children who have not brought a named bottle with them in case a skin reaction occurs.

Please label cream, hats and clothing with your child’s name.

Holiday Clubs.

We would like to notify all working parents and those who want to book into holiday clubs that we will be reviewing the number of children who have booked sessions within the first week of the start of each half term so that we can ensure that we have adequate staffing for the holiday club. If you require certain sessions then please book in as early as possible to ensure that we can offer you the spaces that you need. We have had a lot of late bookings this half term which we were not able to accommodate as we had already sorted out the staffing levels. It will be at the manager’s discretion to decide whether the sessions booked are viable.

Summer Holiday Club

The half term holiday club will run for five weeks 3 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.

The fees must be paid by Friday 7th July otherwise a late pay penalty of £20.00 will be added. Once the sessions have been confirmed they cannot be cancelled or reduced and the fees are payable in full. The fees are £6.40 per hour. 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 Sheila or Lisa. A booking form is attached to this newsletter to be completed and returned as soon as possible and we cannot guarantee places will be available after Friday 9th June.

Photo confirmation slip

CHILD’S NAME.....

I would like my child/children to have an individual photograph to be taken on Tuesday 16th May or Thursday 18th May (please circle the day and whether you will be present for the photograph).

I will / will not be present for the photograph.

Parents evening

CHILD’S NAME.....

I would like to make an appointment with my child’s key worker/session leader..... between 7.00 and 8.30pm on the evening of Tuesday 13th June at (preferred time).....pm.

I will be attending but do not need an appointment.

I will not be attending.