

Newsletter November 2014.

Welcome back after half term, we hope that you are all ready for an exciting build up to Christmas.

Themes

The theme will be “Firework Safety” for the first week.

The themes for the following weeks are listed below. We will also be including “Road Safety” during the half term and we hope that the community police will visit to talk to the children about road safety. We will notify you of the themes on the parents’ notice board in the entrance hall.

Week 1 Firework Safety

Learning Intention: Personal, Social and Emotional

Week 2 Children in Need

Learning Intention: Communication and Language

Week 3 Road Safety Week including a visit from the community police.

Learning Intention: Physical

Week 4 Children’s interest including Thanksgiving 27/11/2014

Learning Intention: Literacy

Week 5 Christmas

Learning Intention: Mathematics

Week 6 Christmas

Learning Intention: Understanding the World

Week 7 Christmas and Christmas parties

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.

The children play outside every day and for safety reasons we would ask you to make sure that they have suitable footwear for the garden.

TERM DATES:

Autumn Term:

Second half of the Autumn term begins on Monday 3rd November to Friday 19th December.

Christmas parties will be held in the last week of term.

We will be closed during the Christmas holidays as we are decorating the nursery.

Spring Term:

Term begins on Monday 5th January 2015 to Friday 13th February.

Half term holiday club is for one week beginning 16th February.

Second half of the Spring term begins on Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March.

We will then open for the Easter holiday club.

Summer Term:

Term begins on Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May.

Nursery will be closed on May Day 4th May.

Half term holiday club is for one week beginning 25th May.

Second half of the Summer term begins Monday 1st June to Monday 20th 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: 401608
Account Number: 31615947

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.

Interest from Home

We have a board just inside the nursery door where the children can display any photographs or pictures of things that they have been doing at home. It is looking a bit empty at the moment so any contributions will be gratefully received.

Bad Weather

Please remember that we like to go outside to play each day so please ensure that your child has suitable named clothing and footwear every day. Please bring a change of clothes for your child in case of accidents or if your child gets wet or dirty clothes during an activity. These can be left in a bag on their peg.

If you have any of our nursery clothes (particularly trousers) at home please return them to us as soon as possible as our supplies are running low!

Snow

There are circumstances which occur rarely, such as severe weather conditions, which may require the nursery day to be reconsidered or cancelled. It is possible that we cannot predict when these circumstances may occur. In cases of severe weather conditions it may not be possible for the staff to travel safely to the nursery. It may be advisable to ring the nursery to check that we are open before setting off from your homes. "Little Hands" will endeavour to provide an uninterrupted service to families whenever possible.

Children in Need

We will be fund raising for Children In Need during the week beginning the 10th November. The theme this year is Hero's and Superstars. It would be lovely if the children came to nursery dressed as Hero's, superstars or fancy dress during the week and particularly on Friday 14th November. Please remember that the children will still be doing normal activities both inside and outside the nursery, so clothes should be comfortable, warm and washable. We will be collecting money for Children In Need by selling sweets, biscuits, cakes, etc. Any donations of sweets, biscuits and cakes will be gratefully received.

Photographs

If your child had an individual photograph taken we would be grateful if you could return the payment and proofs or unwanted photo by Friday 7th November at the VERY latest, so that we can ensure that reorders are back in time for Christmas. Any orders place after this date may not be ready in time for Christmas.

Parents evening

We will be holding a parents evening on Thursday 20th November 2014 from 7- 8.30 pm. If you haven't yet booked an appointment and would like one with your child's key worker or the session leaders Lisa or Shelagh, then please fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and return it to nursery as soon as possible. We do try to book appointments at your convenience, however, sometimes the staff overrun, so please be patient when waiting your turn. If you do not require an appointment but would like to come and look around the nursery and chat to all the staff then you are all welcome.

Christmas parties

We will be holding our Christmas parties on Thursday 18th December and Friday 19th December from 1-3pm. We have a high number of children this term so we are going to hold two parties. I will allocate spaces to the children and try to keep them with their friendship groups. The party consist of a welcome activity, games, dancing, party food and a visit from Father Christmas who gives all the children a present from his sack.

If your child normally attends the nursery on a Thursday or Friday afternoon then a space will be available for your child to attend the party and there will be no additional charge.

We will remain open until 4.30pm as usual for those children who are already booked in during term time.

A separate form will be sent out to you shortly with more details.

Christmas Holiday Club

We are closing during the Christmas holidays to decorate the nursery. If you require holiday club then our Melbourn, Bourn and Bartlow nurseries will be opening on the 22nd and 23rd December. Please speak to Sheila if you would like to book any of these sessions.

PLEASE RETURN THE FOLLOWING SLIPS TO NURSERY.

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 Thursday 20th November 2014 at (preferred time).....pm.

I will be attending but do not need an appointment.

I will not be attending.

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