

February 2014

Hello everyone, and welcome back. I hope you all had a good half term break. I would also like to welcome the new children and families that are joining us this half term.

September 2014 Booking Forms

I shall be handing these out soon; our current children and their siblings have priority on bookings as long as forms are returned by Friday 28th March. From 22nd April I will be sending booking forms out to children on the waiting list. I will confirm sessions booked from 12th May, but please note that changes can only be made up to 23rd 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.

Session Increases for April 2014

If you would like to increase your sessions after Easter, please complete the slip attached to the end of this newsletter. Children who are turning three before 31st March 2014 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 were handed out last half term but if you haven't received one please check the table in the foyer or speak to me. Please pay your fees promptly; there is a two week period to pay the invoice, after which a late payment charge of £20 will automatically be added. The last day for payment is **Friday 7th 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: 401608

Account No. 31615947

Fundraising for Marie Curie Pots of Care

If you remember, in the Autumn term the children planted daffodils which they took home to grow and collect donations from friends and family to support this charity. Please start bringing in your daffodils now so your children can show them to their friends. The children and staff will be planning a Yellow Party Week which will be in the week of 17th March, so please look out for the details. I would like to say thank you for the donations that we have already received back; if you have not yet returned your donation and would like to, please ensure that this is received by **Friday 21st March**. I have some spare envelopes if you would like one.

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 do a range of fun 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 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

24th-28th Feb

Daffodils - Includes St David's Day (1st March)

Please bring in the daffodils planted in Autumn.

We will also be planning our 'Yellow Party Week' (17th-21st March) in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care by asking the children for their ideas.

Week 2

3rd -7th Mar

Pancake Day/Mardis Gras - (4th March)

We will be making pancakes, and putting together different fun activities to have our very own carnival - so there will be dancing, mask and musical instrument making. Tracey Altman (Sabrina's mummy) has kindly agreed to come in to show us how to do Capoeira (a Brazilian martial art).

Week 3

10th-14th Mar

All About Me

This week we will be supporting the development of the children's self-awareness using activities from the Staying Safe in the Foundation Stage programme. We will be talking about what we look like (our hair, skin and eye colour), drawing self- portraits, looking at our baby photos (**please bring some in for the children to share with us**), and guessing who is who! We will also be continuing with children sharing their 'me boxes' which has been proving to be very popular so far.

Week 4

17th-21st Mar

Ireland (Includes St Patrick's Day - 17th March) & **Yellow Party Week**

We will be learning about Ireland, making Bosti (potato cake), and Edel is also sourcing some Irish stories for us.

Please look out for posters about our **Yellow Party Week** in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. **Donations are due in by Friday 21st March.**

Week 5

24th-28th March

Greece & Cyprus (Includes Greek Independence Day 25th March)

We will be cooking and tasting Greek and Cypriot food, dancing to Greek Music including the traditional Cypriot Wedding Money Dance.

Week 6

31st Mar-4th April

Spring Watch

We will start planting our fruit and vegetables (fingers crossed for a good harvest this year), going out on nature walks, listening walks, and looking for wildlife. We will take our video camera out with us to get some reports on the things that we find.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2014

12 weeks

12 weeks

6th January – 14th February

6 weeks

17th – 21st February

half term

24th February – 4th April

6 weeks

Easter holiday club 7th – 11th April & 14th – 17th April

Summer Term 2014

11 weeks 3 days

12 weeks

Tuesday 22nd April - 23rd May
(5th May bank holiday)

4 weeks 3 days

26th – 30th May

half term

2nd June - 18 July

7 weeks

I would like to increase sessions for my child: _____

My preferred sessions are: _____

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

Please use this below to give us any feedback, comments or suggestions: