

# January 2014

Hello everyone, and Happy New Year! Welcome back to all, and a warm welcome to our new children and their families. We had a busy but lovely end to the year last term, and we hope you liked the surprises your children brought home for you in their Christmas folders; they worked very hard making them! We would like to say thank to you all for your kind wishes, cards and presents and hope you all had a lovely Christmas, and are ready for whatever the New Year brings. As usual we have lots planned this half term - you can find all the details at the end of this newsletter.

## School Admissions 2014

If your child will be 4 by 31<sup>st</sup> August you should apply for a school place now. Please remember that the closing date for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2014**. You can apply online: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions) or contact your local school. If you would like to contact the admissions team, their telephone number is: 0345 0451370; I have a few spare guides if you haven't applied yet and would like one, so please speak to me if you need any help.

## Fees

Invoices are dated from the first day of each half term; all payments must be paid within two weeks, or a late payment charge for £20 will be added, unless special arrangements have been made with me, so please talk to me if you have any worries. All invoices were handed out last term so please let me know if you have not received one. Please note that payments are due by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014**.

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 an email notification to Jane Marshall, the nursery proprietor, at [janemarshall@littlehands.co.uk](mailto:janemarshall@littlehands.co.uk) and enter your child's name and 'Bourn' 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.

## Children who are Unwell

Please do not to send your child to nursery if he/she is unwell, or could be infectious. Children who have been infectious should have a twenty four hour infection free period at home. If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea he/she should not return to nursery for **48 hours** following the last symptoms, but you should also ensure they are eating and drinking normally for 24 hours before they return. Any non-prescribed medicines including those for reducing temperature will not be given at nursery and if your child still requires this medication they are not yet fit enough to return to nursery. If your child becomes unwell at nursery we would contact you immediately to collect them. It is therefore very important that your contact numbers are kept up to date. For more details, please read our

policy for Children who are Unwell which is attached at the end of this newsletter. A reminder of our contact details are below:

**Telephone: 07708 061575**

**Email: lh.bourn@gmail.com**

### **Marie Curie - Mini Pots of Care**

Last term the children planted daffodils as part of a national fundraising effort by Marie Curie Cancer Care. Please return all your donation envelopes by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March**. We will also be asking you to bring in the daffodils when they are grown so that your children can show them to everyone at nursery. I am hoping to put a display together with photographs of the children and their daffodils, and this will be put together next half term, so please look out for notices and bring in or email in your photos!

### **Sharing Practice**

We are very pleased that our Early Years Foundation Stage Advisor has recognised us as a setting that provides good provision for children of mixed ages who are supported well together. We have been recommended to share our practice with other settings working towards the same provision by accepting visitors from other settings. Please let me know if you would like to share your views with our visitors and I will make sure that I pass these on.

### **'Me Boxes' - an Explanation**

This whole term we will be encouraging the children to make and share their 'me boxes'. These are decorated shoe boxes containing the children's favourite things inside; my 'me box' will be on the front table if you would like to see my favourite things and get some ideas of what can go inside. The idea behind them is to encourage children to show their favourite things to their friends at nursery. This promotes their language development and encourages their confidence and self-esteem; it also helps children to show interest in the lives of their friends by listening and watching when they are showing and sharing their 'me boxes'. This will be the third year that we are making 'me boxes' and this activity is being repeated as it has been very successful in the past. We have a few spare boxes, but will need lots more so please bring some in if you have them. When your child brings their decorated box home, please help him/her to fill it with things that are special to them. We will encourage the children to talk about the contents of their box either with the whole group, in a small group or just one to one with an adult, depending on each child's confidence and individual needs.

### **February Half Term Holiday Club**

We are hoping to open every day of the forthcoming half term for Holiday Club (week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February), but as always this depends on the demand for spaces. Please therefore complete the booking form attached to the end of this newsletter by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014** so that I can finalise the sessions and the staffing in time.

## Activity Planning

Our planning is based on the children's interests so please let us know if your child has any particular interests that we can incorporate into the planning. We have always been extremely lucky to have some wonderful activities run by parents and grandparents. Please feel free to look through the blue folder on the front table to see photos of previous activities and let us know if you would like to come in to share your skills and interests with us. Please also let us know of any festivals or celebrations that your family participates in as we would like to mark these as authentically as possible using your knowledge and experiences. In addition, we welcome all parents and family members to join us for story-time at the end of each day; the door opens at 3.50pm for those who would like to join us. Please try to be on time as latecomers can disrupt the story and the children's concentration.

# Planning for this Half Term

This term we will be following the 'All about Me' theme of the Staying Safe in Foundation Stage Curriculum and putting our 'Me Boxes' together to share with everyone at nursery. More information can be found in the newsletter and on the parents' notice board area.

## Week 1

06-10/01 **Winter** - We will be talking about the weather (e.g. frosty spider webs, snow, the cold), the seasons, how our environment looks different in winter time (trees, plants & flowers) and what we would do or wear to keep warm when it's cold outside.

## Week 2

13-17/01 **Castles** - We will be learning about castles by talking to the children, and reading books about castles, making castles out of junk modelling materials and finding out about famous castles and who lives or used to live in them. If you have any photographs of visits to castles with the children please bring them in for your child to share with us.

## Week 3

20-24/01 **Fairy Tales, Magic and Pantomime** - We will be encouraging role play from favourite fairy tales and stories, making magic wands to perform magic with (so watch out!) and we (the grown-ups) will be putting on our annual pantomime...Oh yes we are!! Su is putting the panto together and she is trying to decide between two favourite stories so please look out for updates on the parents' notice boards.

## Week 4

27-31/01 **Chinese New Year - 31<sup>st</sup> January, Year of the Horse** - this year we are extremely lucky to have help from Ran and Shuk-Yee (Jonny and Chloe's mummies) who have kindly offered to share their experiences and stories of

Chinese New Year with us and give us some ideas for fun activities. As it is the year of the horse, Gill will be bringing her horse sparkle for a visit too! If anyone would like to join in with any of these activities please speak to us as we would welcome your support.

#### Week 5

03-07/02 **"The Good Old Days"** - We will be sharing our childhood experiences with the children by exploring equipment such as record players, cameras, telephones etc. We will also be listening to music from over the years and looking at old photographs. If you have anything we can borrow please let us know - we promise to look after it!

#### Week 6

10-14/02 **Valentine's Day** - We will be talking about the things we like, making Valentine's crackers (**please save all your kitchen roll tubes**), writing cards to our friends and giving each other compliments!

If you can and would like to contribute to any of these activities please let us know.

## Term Dates:

**Spring Term 2014** 12 weeks 12 weeks

6<sup>th</sup> January – 14<sup>th</sup> February 6 weeks

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February half term

24<sup>th</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> April 6 weeks

*Easter holiday club 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April & 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April*

**Summer Term 2014** 11 weeks 3 days 12 weeks

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
(5<sup>th</sup> May bank holiday) 4 weeks 3 days

26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May half term

2<sup>nd</sup> June - 18 July 7 weeks

## **Policy of the Month:**

### **Children who are Unwell**

It is very difficult for a young child to attend a session when they are feeling unwell. Children can become poorly quickly and may leave home feeling fine only for us to contact you an hour later to ask you to collect. Children cannot always express in words that they are not feeling well, or may appear fine at home after being poorly for a few days but not be well enough yet to cope with nursery.

Parents are advised in the information book not to send their child to nursery if they are unwell or could be infectious. If your child becomes unwell at nursery we would contact you immediately to collect them. It is therefore very important that your contact numbers are kept up to date.

If a member of staff suspects your child has an infectious disease on arriving at nursery you would be advised to take your child home and what action to take next.

On returning to nursery following illness please discuss your child's current health with a member of staff.

We have current information regarding infectious diseases; with their incubation and exclusion periods at nursery should you need any advice. If the staff have any doubts the nursery's local health centre will give the staff general advice. Notifiable diseases and clusters of food poisoning are reported to Ofsted.

Children who have been infectious should have a 24 hour "infection free" period at home. If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea they should not return to nursery for 48 hours following the last symptoms, but also you should ensure they are eating and drinking normally for 24 hours before they return.

Any non-prescribed medicines including those for reducing temperature or alleviating "cold virus" symptoms will not be given at nursery. If your child still requires this medication they are not yet fit enough to return to nursery.

Little Hands offers a limited number of "make-up" sessions for children who miss attending nursery through illness. Make-up sessions must be arranged within the half term they fall, but the session leader will need to be satisfied that the child is fully recovered enough to cope with their ordinary nursery week before arranging extra sessions. There may be times when it is not possible to make up all sessions lost due to illness and the final decision as to whether sufficiently staffed sessions spaces for "make-up" sessions rests with the manager.

# HOLIDAY CLUB - February Half Term 2013

Child(ren)'s

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**We can accept children from ages 2 - 8, so older siblings and their friends are also welcome**

Sessions required (please circle):

Monday            17/02 8.30-9   9-10 10-11 11-12 12-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-4.30

Tuesday           18/02 8.30-9   9-10 10-11 11-12 12-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-4.30

Wednesday       19/02 8.30-9   9-10 10-11 11-12 12-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-4.30

Thursday           20/02 8.30-9   9-10 10-11 11-12 12-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-4.30

Friday             21/02 8.30-9   9-10 10-11 11-12 12-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-4.30

**Please return by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

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**Please use this space for any comments/suggestions:**