

January 2014

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back for our Spring term. We hope you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday. Thank you from the staff for the Christmas gifts we received.

Hello and welcome to our new children and their families as they join us at Little Hands this term.

Our topic this half term is **Handa's Surprise and Chinese New Year**, we will of course be **discussing Father Christmas' visit**.

The children are very welcome to bring in any items related to the topic. Our **Staying Safe** theme this half term is about **being lost** - how we would feel, what we should do and how not to get lost. We will approach this topic through stories.

Weeks: 1/2 - Small Bear Lost and Dogger

Weeks: 3/4 - Elmer and the Lost Teddy and The Cat Who Lost His Purr

Week 5/6: - Alone in the Woods and Little Baa.

Term Dates

Spring Term dates are:

6th January – 14th February (6 weeks)

17th – 21st February (half term)

24th February – 4th April (6 weeks)

Please let Mandy or Caroline know of any specific days/sessions required in the half term holiday for working parents to help us organise sessions. Booking forms for the half term holiday club will be available soon. Please ask for a form if you wish to use the holiday club.

Invoices

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 Mandy, so please talk to Mandy if you have any worries. The last day for payments this half term is **Friday 17th January**. 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.

Children's Admission Details

Please give Mandy any updates to your child's details, particularly health details and contact number details if they have changed since you completed your child's admission form.

Children's 'All About Me' folders

Just a reminder - and for new parents/carers – we like to put photographs of your child in their folder as further observations. 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.

Illness

Hopefully many of the coughs and colds have gone over the Christmas period! Please can I 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.

Winter Weather

If we have severe weather then Mandy or Caroline will phone parents between 7-7.30am to see if they are bringing their child to nursery. This will give the staff the opportunity to remain at home rather than struggling in. We will, of course, remain open if at all possible for parents. In the colder weather please send your child to nursery with appropriate coat, hat, scarf, gloves and wellies **with them all named**, thank you.

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.

Parent Involvement in Sessions

You are always welcome to come in and play. Remember Dads as well as Mums are welcome!! Please let Mandy or Caroline know if you want to do this so that we can book it into the diary.

Reminders:

Lunch Boxes

Please, label lunch boxes on their **outside** and **drink bottles** to make it easier for staff to identify them. If you are putting a new food in the lunch box for your child to try then please let staff know. We always assume that whatever is in their lunch box they will eat and consequently encourage them to do so. Children have a strong perception of fairness. We do not like to excuse some children from eating some foods while asking others to do so.

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.

Mandy, Caroline, Linda, Natalie, Michelle, Jo and Joyce

Contact details:

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