

Newsletter No.5- April 2024

Little Acorns Pre-School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely Easter break.

Topic for this half term - This half term's topic is 'Growing, Planting and Minibeasts'. We will be learning about Plant Life Cycles including decomposition, what plants need to grow and survive, Planting seeds, Insects and their habitats and insect life cycles such as how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly.

Messy play/activities - At Little Acorns, we follow the Early Years Curriculum and believe that the children should experience a wide range of activities and have the opportunity to engage and explore with a range of resources. Therefore, please could you send your child to nursery in clothing that you don't mind getting dirty or messy. Also, please ensure that your child comes to nursery with appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather. E.G: Coat, Wellies, Hat, Gloves and scarves, Sun hat and Suncream! {All named, if possible, please!}

Spare Clothes - At nursery we have some spare clothes if your child needs changing, however please could you ensure that there is at least one change of clothes in your child's bag every day. Also, if your child borrows some nursery clothes, please could you wash them and return them back to us! Thank you!

Packed Lunches - At Little Acorns we promote healthy eating and we are working hard to teach your child about healthy food choices and the importance of exercise to look after our bodies. Please could you ensure that you are giving your child healthy food items in their packed lunches. Also, please can you remember to encourage your child put their lunch box on the Lunch Trolley when they enter the Preschool in the morning.

Also, please do not send your child in with any food products that contain any form of Nuts in their lunch boxes, as we have children in the setting with a potential Nut Allergy.

Snacks - Thank you for bringing in snacks for the children to share together at snack times. **Please continue** to bring in fresh fruit, vegetables including cucumber and tomatoes, cheese twists, crackers or breadsticks as these foods support our healthy eating ethos.

Book Bags - Every child will be issued with a book bag. Please can you ensure that these are brought into Preschool every week, before Wednesday to enable the books to be changed regularly. Please could you write a comment in the book provided regarding the book you have read with your child.

Also, when your child leaves our setting, the book bag **MUST** be returned. Please be aware you **WILL** be charged if the book bag or book is lost or damaged.

Parking - Please **DO NOT** park in the school car park under any circumstances. This car park is for staff only.

Start/Finish Times - The nursery day begins promptly at 9am and we open the door at **8:50am**. The morning session ends at 12pm and the afternoon session begins at 12pm. The nursery day finishes at 3pm. Please be **prompt** when dropping off/collecting your child at the beginning and end of their sessions. We appreciate on

RARE occasions, there may be a reason you are late dropping off/collecting your child but when you arrive late, we have to release a member of staff to come down and open the gate, which means we are out of ratio in the setting. If you are late regularly, you **will** be charged for the session {£6 per hour for 2 Year olds and £4.75 per hour for 3/4 Year olds}.

Committee Vacancy - We currently have a vacancy for a parent representative on our Nursery Committee. The role would include attending meetings to discuss the running of the Preschool, so it is a great opportunity to express your views on what is working well in the setting or areas you feel could be improved. The meetings are held five times a year currently and from 1.30-2.30pm. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, please speak to Sarah or Shola.

Starting School September 2024 - If your child is due to be starting school in September 2024, you should now have received confirmation with an allocated school place for your child. We will be liaising with your child's school to ensure a smooth transition during this term. If you have not applied, please talk to us.

Stay and Play Sessions - Over the next term, we will be inviting parents/carers into the setting to a stay and play session with your child. These 1-hour sessions provide an opportunity for you to engage in some of the activities we provide at pre-school with your child. See dates below for the stay and play sessions. We look forward to you joining us in these fun sessions! Our next Stay and Play session is on **Wednesday 15th May from 9am to 10am.**

Heavy Rain - At the end of the day {3pm}, if it is raining heavily, we will ask parents to wait outside of the gate. We will gather the children under the wooden shelter on the playground and a member of staff will bring your child to the gate to meet you. This is for the children's safety as this is our priority. Thank you for your co-operation with this procedure.

Car Seats - We would just like to remind you that Children are required by Law to be secured into an appropriate Car Seat. Here is a guide to the type of Car Seat you should be using for your child/children:

Child aged from Birth - 2/3 years old - Rear Facing Car Seat

Child aged 3 Years old - 6 years old - Forward Facing Car Seat

Child aged 4 years old - 9-12 years old/145cm tall - Booster Seat

Fee Increase - Just a reminder that Fees are now being charged at the new rate - £6 per hour for 2 Year olds and £4.75 per hour for 3/4 Year olds.

Peg Wallets - Every child has a named Plastic Zip Wallet on their peg. This is for Artwork that has been completed by your child. Please take the Artwork out of the folder and take it home but **LEAVE** the folder on your child's peg. Thank you.

Diary Dates	
Monday 6 th May 2024	Bank Holiday - Preschool Closed
Wednesday 15 th May 9am-10am	Stay and Play Session
Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May 2024	Half Term
Monday 3 rd June 2024	Back to Preschool
Friday 12 th July 2024	Last day of Term
Monday 15 th July 2024	INSET Day

Little Acorns Team

Registered charity number 1174781

