

Nursery News March 2017

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much to those of you who dressed your children up for World Books Day. The children looked amazing and seemed to really enjoy being dressed up. The children from Saplings joined the children at school for assembly where a competition was held for most creative costume. Two of the nursery children proudly went to the front to show their costumes.

The PTFA has recently relaunched. If you are interested in helping with fundraising or social events that support the school or nursery please go along, Jane Hazelton and Liz Malaiperuman are both currently attending but it would be great to see further nursery representation.

Unfortunately we are unable to heat lunches for children over the age of 24 months, this is due to capacity. The children all have lunch at school and the kitchen does not have a microwave. If you would like your child to have a hot meal in the middle of the day you may purchase a school meal, otherwise please provide them with a cold lunch such as sandwiches, crackers or wraps.

We understand that it can be really frustrating to have children coming home covered in paint. Although we provide aprons they do not always stay on, or sometimes are not clean if a child picks one up and puts it on after another child has painted. If you would like to donate an old t-shirt, top or jumper in a slightly larger size than your child wears we will endeavour to pop them on the children prior to painting. This hopefully will alleviate some of the problem. Please be aware that as this is a donation we may not be able to return your t-shirt. The tops will be washed periodically at the nursery. Please make staff aware that the tops are for painting rather than just spare clothes for nursery.

If you read these letters regularly you will be aware of the 30 hours funded childcare for three and four year olds of working families. Last week I attended a conference specifically aimed at finding out more about the funding. If you think you may be eligible please go to www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator to find out what help you can get with your childcare. When you have put your details in you will get a colour, red means you are not eligible, yellow means you might be eligible but more information is needed and green means you are eligible. If you are eligible you will be given a code which you need to present to nursery. The Local Authority will then check that the code is still valid, and providing it is and we have space your child will be able to take their 30 hour entitlement. If you have any further questions please just ask.

Please be aware that if your child turned two or three between September or December last year and they claim 15 hours in term time, their funding may not stretch all the way to Christmas. This is because children are funded for 38 weeks of the year, but as the Christmas break is later than it was last year it is actually 39 weeks. Nearer the time you will be asked if you wish for your child not to come for the week preceding the Christmas break or if you would like to pay for the additional childcare.

The nursery will close for term time only children on Friday 31st for the Easter holiday and will reopen on Tuesday 18th April. If your child is all year round their place will be open as usual. If your child does not come all year round but you would like additional hours during the Easter break we have a limited number of places available. Please complete a change of hours form to book a place.

The staff would like me to remind you that tapestry can be used by parents as well as staff. The children are always so pleased to tell us about things they have done at home, especially when there are photos or videos that they can talk about too. Sometimes we display the children's photos on the interactive white board and they are always really excited to see themselves.

Thank you for your continued support

Emma Packer

Nursery Leader