

**NEWSLETTER AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020**

Firstly, welcome back to all of our existing parents and children and welcome to our new parents and children! Well, what a year we’ve had so far! It is with much hope that this academic year will be a much more positive experience than the last! However we all know that we are not ‘out of the woods’ yet and I would like to thank you for not only your understanding and patience to date but also in the future. I don’t think any of us know what the future holds and it may well be that we all have to make adjustments and changes as time goes on, but be rest assured that at the centre of everything is your child’s happiness, wellbeing and early years education.

Please find following in this newsletter to kick start the new term, information that I hope you will find helpful however, as ever, if you do have any questions, queries or feedback, please do speak with either myself, Chelsea or your child’s keyworker.

**Term Dates:**

As a term time setting, we generally fall in with the term dates of our nearest primary school All Saints. However we are mindful that some parents may require childcare during the holidays so we do offer holiday club provision though this is subject to minimum numbers to make it feasible to run. Funded hours are only paid by the government during term time so holiday club care is at an additional cost. Please speak with a member of staff for more information.

Autumn term:

Inset Day for staff: Wednesday 2nd September

Kindergarten reopens: Thursday 3rd September

Half term closure: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October (Holiday club offered)

Kindergarten reopens: Monday 2nd November

Closure for Christmas: Friday 18th December (No holiday club offered during Christmas)

Spring term:

Inset day for staff: Monday 4th January 2021

Kindergarten reopens: Tuesday 5th January

Half term closure: Monday 15th – Friday 19th February

Kindergarten reopens: Monday 22nd February

Closure for Easter: Friday 26th March – Friday 9th April (holiday club offered)

Summer term:

Kindergarten reopens: Monday 12th April

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May

May half term holiday: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June (holiday club offered)

Inset day for staff: Monday 7th June

Kindergarten reopens: Tuesday 8th June

Closure for summer holidays: Wednesday 21st July (holiday club offered at both Great and Small Kindergarten and Great and Small Forest School throughout the summer holidays, subject to meeting minimum numbers, except the last two weeks when we are closed to prepare for the new term).

**Revised pricing structure taking effect from Monday 1st September 2020:**

As per a letter sent earlier this year (pre-Covid), the revised pricing structure will take effect from the beginning of this new term.

All funded hours may be taken within the hours of 9.00am to 4.00pm daily (9.00am to 3.00pm on Mondays) with wraparound care charged hourly as follows:

2-3 year olds = £6.50 per hour

3+ years = £6.00 per hour

Full day rates –

2-3 year olds = £42.00

3+ year olds = £40.00

Half day rates –

2-3 year olds = £28.00

3+year olds = £27.00

Session rates –

AM (9.00 – 12 noon only) and PM (12 – 3.00pm only)

2-3 year olds = £18.00

3+ years = £17.00

Full day session (9.00am – 3.00pm only) –

2-3 year olds = £34.00

3+ year olds = £33.00

**Covid 19 safety procedures:**

Throughout the last few months of a partial reopening, we have implemented policies in line with a thorough risk assessment considering the practicalities and realities of the running of our setting and the guidance issued by the government. We have found these to have run smoothly and safely yet ensuring that children are happy, learning and do not find things too ‘different’. We shall continue to use these practices however will also assess our practice on a daily and weekly basis and make any changes that we see fit or as advised. I shall attach a copy of our risk assessment to this email for your information however you may also ask for a hard copy if preferred.

The main issues to consider are:

* Drop off/collection – we won’t be asking for staggered drop off and collection times but do ask that all parents and children maintain social distancing from other families whilst in the front yard at these times.
* Parents/carers will not be able to enter the building at drop off/collection until further notice. Children will be met at the door, hands and belongings sanitized then able to enter. On collection, a member of staff will call your child to the door to be met by yourself. We ask that you then promptly leave the premises to avoid unnecessary contact with other families.
* Only one adult may drop off and collect.
* We ask that dogs are not brought onto the premises.
* We ask that buggies/pushchairs be taken with you and not left on the premises.
* If your child has stays with us over lunch, we shall sanitize their lunchbox and drinks bottle on arrival and departure by wiping with an anti bacterial wipe which is then disposed of.
* We ask that your child bring all that they need (nappies, wipes, spare clothes etc) in one bag which is then left at Kindergarten for the week. Soiled clothes will be sent home as required. Please can you ensure that all belongings are named.
* We will encourage handwashing frequently throughout the day both indoors and outdoors.
* If your child or anyone in your household or ‘bubble’ displays ANY symptoms of Covid 19, you MUST NOT bring your child to Kindergarten and must follow government guidelines. Please note that failure to follow this request, may result in our whole setting having to close to all children whilst procedures and advice are carried out – something none of us want!
* We have found that government guidance can be issued last minute and can change regularly however we shall act upon current guidelines and reserve the right to alter our policies and procedures in line with this at any time.
* Additional government guidance documents are attached to this email for your information.

**What should you child bring?:**

* A healthy packed lunch and drinks bottle (information on healthy eating is attached to this email). Water and milk is provided by us also.
* One named bag with a change of clothes including underwear if required in case of accidents, nappies and wipes if appropriate, waterproofs and wellies (we do play out a lot).

\* Please note that waterproofs and wellies can be kept at Kindergarten.

\* We will no longer be able to change your child into our own stock of spare clothes so ask that spares are provided from home. If spares are no provided, we may have to contact parents for early collection if required.

\* We ask that children do not bring any other items from home such as toys etc. Comforters may be brought if essential though it is preferred not to.

**Consumables:**

From this September we are introducing a small weekly charge of £3.00 per week for the use of consumable items provided by the Kindergarten such as nappies, wipes, nappy bags, sun creams etc. If you are happy to contribute to the cost of consumables, payments of £3.00 per week can be made in either cash or bank transfer. Alternatively, for those parents not wishing to contribute, children must bring in their own supply of consumables. Should any of our consumables be required, parents/carers will be subsequently charged.

Although I have not asked for a consumables contribution before, I have found that it is normal practice for nurseries to ask for this and have found that it is otherwise an expensive outlay, especially now with the increased amount of cleaning and health products, something for which there is no funding for. However, we will continue to cover the costs for the resources we use eg paints, paper, crayons etc and for the healthy snacks provided as we feel that this is an important part of all the children’s day and diet.

**Questionnaire:**

These last few months have been a very unusual and often worrying times for us all, perhaps some more than others. It may well have highlighted areas of our lives where we feel that we could do with a little (or lot) of help. It may have impacted our lives emotionally, physically, financially. It may have caused us stress and worries that we haven’t had before. However we are all in this together and we are here to help you where we can. Along with this newsletter is a brief questionnaire asking you if there are any areas of life for yourself or our family where you feel we can help you. We may not be able to provide an easy solution straightaway, but we can certainly help to signpost you to someone, organisation or charity that can. If you would prefer not to talk to us about any problems, that’s OK, but please know that we are all here to help and will do so with respect and confidentiality. Alternatively, if you would prefer to have a chat with a member of staff over a brew, please speak with us.

**Questionnaire**

How do you feel you have coped with the last few months under the rules and lockdown due to Covid 19? Has this impacted in any way?

How have you addressed the issue with your child? Have you noticed any changes with your child that you’d like to mention?

Have you had a support network in place?

What kinds of activities have you been doing? Have you been lucky enough to have a holiday anywhere or days out?

Has your work been affected?

Have you been thinking about the future and maybe how you might like to go forward? Maybe through your own development, education, wellbeing, health, home life etc?

If there’s anything that you feel we can help you with, please talk to us and we will do our best to help you ourselves or to signpost you to organisations that could help whether that be financial support, family advice, college courses, wellbeing services etc.