

Fizzy Fish News

Your child's key person is

October 2018

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year.

This summer has been particularly busy with the Martlet's Junior Snail and children leaving for school. Some of the children have been with us since babies and either started with Lou or myself before our merger. We have just completed our third year working together and the business continues to grow stronger every year.

Christmas Sessions

As your children attends Term Time Only, your last session will be during the week commencing Monday 17th December. The new Spring term starts on Monday 14th January. If you require sessions during the week commencing Tuesday 7th January, these are available but will be charged at the full rate as funded hours don't start until the following week. NO EXTRA SESSIONS will be available during the week between Christmas and the New Year.

Please complete the attached form and return it to us by Wednesday 31st October. Numbers are needed to arrange staffing over the Christmas and New Year period.

Staff

A number of staff have recently completed their level 3's or are about to. Ellie has started her level 3 and should be finished early in the new year.

Dain and Lucy left the business at the end of the term to start new jobs.

Kersha also left to go travelling with friends.

Jasmine recently left to concentrate on her career working with the elderly.

Becki joined us in the Summer term and works at the Nursery. She has a wealth of experience and we have recently promoted her to Deputy Manager.

Ashton, who is based at the Pre-School, is currently training to be a Deputy Manager.

Ryan also joined us in the Summer term and has quickly become a firm favourite with the children at Pre-School. It was planned that he start his Early Years Teacher training this term but due to unforeseen circumstances this has had to be postponed until next September. This will give him a chance to gain more experience working with the under fives, to complete his level 3 and undertake Forest School training. Lou will also start the Forest School training with him next week.

Tiffany joined us in September and is working at both settings for the time being. She trained with Angel at City College and starts her level 3 in the next few weeks.

Nichola recently joined us and provides bank cover together with Ann.

Nursery:

Naomi Maxwell - Area Manager, Cook, Safeguarding Officer and Early Years Educator

Sian Knight - Deputy Manager, Safeguarding Officer and Early Years Educator

Georgia Hyland - Deputy Manager, Safeguarding Officer and Early Year Educator

Becki Parris - Deputy Manager, SENCO and Early Year Educator

Mercedez Walshe - Early Years Educator

Tracy Banks - Early Years Educator

Lara Deason - Early Years Educator

Ellie Fothergill - Apprentice Early Years Educator and Messy Play Co-ordinator

Donna Huntsman - Cook and Lunch time Assistant

Pre-school:

Suzie Cooper - Deputy Manager, Safeguarding Officer and Early Years Educator

Kirstie Salmon - Deputy Manager, Safeguarding Officer and Early Years Educator

Ashton Nealgrove - Deputy Manager, SENCO and Early Years Educator

Ryan Karacochi - Apprentice Early Years Educator and Outside Co-ordinator

Angel Green - Early Years Educator

Tiffany Foster - Early Years Educator

Funded Sessions

Please find attached the Term dates for the academic year and we are reminding parents that the holiday dates are in line with the funding offered by the Local Authority. All children are entitled to 38 weeks funding. We appreciate that these dates may not fit exactly with your working days and therefore we do offer spaces to term time children outside of these dates. These will however be charged at our non-funded rates.

30 Free Entitlement Hours

An extra 15 hours per week for 38 weeks may be available to children if the parent or parents they live with, each work at least 16 hours a week and earn less than £100,000.

Parents need to apply online to obtain the code needed to claim the extra 15 hours **the term your child turns 3**. Codes must be obtained **before** the start of the term, failure to do this will result in children not being able to access the extra hours until the following term.

Parents are informed when they need to re-check their eligibility (every 3 months) and will be given a grace period to find new work if they lose their job. It is extremely important that you keep us updated about your eligibility as failure to do so will result in you being financially liable for any sessions not covered.

Tax Free Childcare

HMRC now offer the above which is similar to the old childcare vouchers. We are encouraging parents to register for this system for a number of reasons:

1. It allows most parents to take advantage of receiving up to £2,000 per year, per child towards childcare costs.
2. It enables the parents to make one payment to settle their invoice, instead of a bank transfer and one of more childcare voucher payments. This makes it much easier when allocating payments to invoices.

3. The current Childcare Vouchers is due to be phased out and any money paid into that system can only be used for childcare costs. Money in the new HMRC system can be withdrawn at any time.

For more details, please see www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-free-childcare-10-things-parents-should-know.

Visit childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk to sign up for the new service.

Martlet's Be More Snail Campaign

Thanks to parent's generosity, we raised nearly twice the amount needed to participate in this event at our Fun Day alone.

Some of the staff have signed up to the Sponsored Snailway Evening Safari which will visit all the large Snails currently situated around the city. This event will take place on Friday 12th October and if you like to sponsor our team, you can do so via our Giving Page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fizzyfishbemoresnail. For more details about the Snailway Safari, please visit www.themartlets.org.uk/events/snailway-safari.

If you haven't already seen our Junior Snail, it is located in the Martlet's Charity shop in Church Road, Brighton next door to Dockerill's.

Lindridge Nursing Home

The handprints of some of the residents the Pre-School children visit each week were also put on our snail. A 101 year old resident recently went to see some of the snails displayed in the city - see www.theargus.co.uk/news/16890978.101-year-old-explorer-tours-the-martlets-snails-by-bicycle/.

Lack of Courtesy to Staff

We were very upset to receive a report from a parent about the way another parent had spoken to a member of staff at the Pre-School. This together with the receipt of several aggressive emails prompted us, after discussions with the Local Authority, to impose a Zero Tolerance Policy. In future, if disrespectful behaviour is reported to us, we will have no alternative than to exclude the parent/carer from coming into the setting and the child will have to be dropped off by someone else. In the worst-case scenario, we will have no other alternative than to give notice to the family concerned.

Sensory/Messy/Art Activities

Earlier in the year I attended a professional early years training session entitled "Dynamic Displays or Static Wallpaper?" This thought-provoking course has led us to review our approach to creative activities in the settings which follow a prescribed model or use entirely pre-selected materials. We realise that children in the nursery aren't old enough or able enough to create an end result based on an object or photographs and therefore we have decided to provide them a different sensory/messy play activities per day that helps them develop their five senses: sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste. Please see the article attached to this newsletter. In future children at the Pre-School will be provided with similar activities together with the opportunity to draw and paint pictures. A new board will allow them to display their work (if they want to) and identify their work by writing their name next to their work or by using the pre-printed name labels. It will then be up to the individual child to decide when they want to take their work home.

In accordance with national guidance, Ofsted expectations and best practice principles in early education, we are encouraging our staff and children to focus on the thinking, resources and ideas involved in each child's creative activities rather than on a polished end result. Of course we will encourage children to overcome challenges and learn new skills as appropriate while they are making things. Photographs of the children partaking in the activities will also be displayed and used as prompts to talk about their experiences/challenges at circle times.

At Pre-School, the use of Talking Points will allow the staff to record instructions, suggestions and pose questions around the setting which the children will be able to listen to whenever they chose.

The children will continue to enjoy participating in a wide range of play-based learning activities, many of which will be linked to their current interests. They will sing, play games, make music, investigate, paint, build and role play as usual, indoors and out. The staff will continue to interact with the children at every opportunity, playing alongside them, supporting problem solving and collaboration, teaching new skills, telling stories and listening to what they have to say!

Removing One Use Plastics from the Settings and become more Environmentally Friendly

A local nursery has changed the way they operate to become 'more green'. This really appeals to us and leads on from the reduction we have made in the use of wet wipes in the settings. It is our aim to stop using wet wipes completely by Christmas. As you may be aware, we use flannels to clean the babies and toddlers after meals and the older children are encouraged to wash their hands. We have also decided to stop using glitter made of plastic and staff have been provided with reusable water bottles to stop the one-use plastic bottles. We are keen to learn more and therefore will be visiting this nursery to get other ideas.

Invoices

Just a quick reminder for long-standing customers and an explanation for new parents. Invoices are produced towards the end of the month for the up and coming month. They are payable in advance and payment is due roughly 7 days after issue but not before 5th of the month. The due date is always specified on the email attached to the invoice. If, for any reason, you require an extension to the payment date, either as a one-off or as a permanent arrange, please contact us to discuss and agree.

Once the invoices have been issued, I send a txt msg asking you to contact info@fizzyfishhove.co.uk if you haven't received it.

If payment hasn't been made by the agreed date, we reserve the right to add a Late Payment charge of £25 to your account.

I try to tally payment throughout the month and usually do the first tally soon after the payment date. I always tally payments before running the invoices to make sure accounts are up to date.

To reduce administration and bank charges, as few payments per month as possible is much appreciated. We recently received a payment of 1p which cost us 35p to process! It is also easier if the exact amount owed is paid rather than over and under payments.

To try and reduce our bank charges, we would ask that you change the bank details to our saving accounts: 60263865 53-61-02. I will inform the childcare voucher companies and HMRC's Tax Free Childcare department, so you only have to amend payments from your bank accounts. I will also amend the invoices, from next month, to specify the new bank details.

Results of the Recent Survey about Handovers

Thank you to everyone that completed the recent survey. The comments were quite mixed but generally you were happy with the handovers. Some parents thought that the information on handover could be more detailed. The reason for the brief details is to ensure parents get the important information about food, sleeps and nappies from Dayshare. A lot of the children attend the settings each day and it would be easy to muddle information if it was all relayed verbally. The staff at nursery have boards by the sleep areas, the bathroom and the room where they eat. Information is added to these boards throughout the day. This information is then referred to when updating each child's details on Dayshare. Pre-School operate a similar system.

It's not that the staff don't want to tell you about these details, it's just they want to get the details correct.

Christmas Party

Will be held on Thursday 20th December. Details will follow nearer the time.

Social Media

Please keep up to date with our Facebook pages, as they are regularly updated and give you all the latest about what is happening in the settings and links to other useful information.

Information about the daily Sensory/Messy Activities at Nursery are post regularly. The Pre-School will be doing the same once their plan is complete.

Suitable Clothing and Footwear

Now the colder weather is upon us, please ensure children come in with warm coats and suitable shoes for the garden. At the Pre-School they need rubber soled shoes to ensure they don't slip on the climbing frame. If they aren't wearing the correct shoes they will not be allowed on the frame as it can be quite slippery.

Wanted Items

WELLIES: As always, we are grateful for any old wellies you may have. Some of the more fashionable wellies aren't as hard wearing as the traditional style and with the amount of use they get don't always last that long.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES: For use in our quiet area.

Recommendations

If you know of any families looking for spaces, please point them in our direction and remember that you receive a £25 voucher or £25 off your invoice for any child you recommend that starts at any of our settings.

Lou and I would like to thank you for your continuing support and custom. If you have any queries regarding this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact one of us and we welcome all suggestions and hope you will approach us about anything regarding our service.

www.fizzyfishhove.co.uk

info@fizzyfishhove.co.uk should be used for general enquiries and invoice queries.

sessions@fizzyfishhove.co.uk is for requests for extra sessions.

staff@fizzyfishhove.co.uk is also available if you would like to contact an individual member of staff. This address will also be used if a staff member needs to contact you.

Nursery - 01273 227425

Pre-School - 01273 727129

You can also contact either setting by texting Lou on 07769214244 or Naomi on 07805 348244.

Teachers2Parents is used to text parents. Please DON'T reply to this service as this isn't monitored as it is only used to send out information.

Dayshare is linked to our Invoicing system (**Abacus**) and this is used to send out daily information about your child's day and general emails. This will include information about what and how much they have eaten, when and for how long they have slept, nappy changes and what they have done during the day. It can also be used to send photographs that may not be put on **Tapestry**. The emails are sent out asap after the end of the child's session. Emails are sent to the parent or parents that receives the invoices. If required, we can set up the second parent so please don't hesitate to ask.

An article found online at www.verywellfamily.com/why-sensory-play-is-important-2086510:

Sensory play has an important role in development. When you talk about the senses, most kids over a certain age can rattle them off without problem: sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste. Any and all of these can be incorporated into sensory [play](#).

The Role of Sensory Play

It's not just children who have difficulty with sensory integration who can benefit from sensory play; it's all children. There are certain groups of children, such as those who have autism or those who have sensory integration dysfunction disorder who have specific difficulty making sense of and organizing all the stimuli that come at them via their senses. The truth is, all children need help learning how to use their senses.

From the very first day they are born, children are designed to explore the world via their senses. That's why babies and toddlers touch everything and put things in their mouths, and why kids make funny noises with their mouths and experiment with how the world sounds with their fingers stuck in their ears. It's why your child spins in circles until they're so dizzy, they fall, then get up and do it again.

Sensory Play Isn't All About Touch

Some people, when they think of sensory play, immediately picture sand and water tables or kids playing with clay and playdough, but it isn't all about touch; it's also about the other senses.

For instance, the sharp [scent of vinegar](#) involved in a science experiment, the colors of water during a color mixing experiment, or the texture and smells of [scratch and sniff painting](#) are all part of appealing to your child's senses.

Sensory exploration is a child's way of examining, discovering, categorizing, and making sense of the world, and it's beneficial to provide them with opportunities for sensory play.

Sensory Play and Language Skills

Playing with different types of textures, tastes, and objects help your child build new ways of talking about the world. Suddenly, the tree is more than a tree, it's a sapling with smooth bark, or it's a pine tree with rough bark and a sharp pine scent. Water isn't just wet, it can be rough (waves), slippery with bubbles, or cold and translucent when frozen.

Tastes, too, can [build your child's language base](#). No longer does she want hot dogs for dinner, but she wants something tangy or salty or sweet, but certainly not bland or bitter.

Sensory Helps Fine Motor Skills

There are two main types of motor skills your child develops; fine motor skills and gross motor skills. Gross motor skills deal with the coordination of large muscle groups and are responsible for activities like running, walking, etc.

Fine motor skills are those that require the ability to use and coordinate small muscle groups and are important for writing, shoe-tying, buttoning, and zipping, among other things. Sensory play often involves using and building fine motor skills by exploring things using pinching, pouring, and lacing movements.

Sensory Play Is Calming

You may have noticed that your child is calmer after bath time or that, after a particularly rough session of jumping around the room, banging into furniture, crashing onto his bed or into pillows, your child seems more grounded. This type of sensory play is calming for kids, as it helps them regulate their internal discomfort, whether that discomfort was boredom, restlessness, or some other type of agitation.

Autumn Term			Spring Term			Summer Term		
Week No	Week Commencing		Week No	Week Commencing		Week No	Week Commencing	
1	03-Sep			07-Jan	Xmas Break	1	22-Apr	
2	10-Sep		1	14-Jan		2	29-Apr	
3	17-Sep		2	21-Jan		3	06-May	
4	24-Sep		3	28-Jan		4	13-May	
5	01-Oct		4	04-Feb		5	20-May	
6	08-Oct		5	11-Feb			27-May	Half term
7	15-Oct			18-Feb	Half term	6	03-Jun	
	22-Oct	Half term	6	25-Feb		7	10-Jun	
	29-Oct	Half term	7	04-Mar		8	17-Jun	
8	05-Nov		8	11-Mar		9	24-Jun	
9	12-Nov		9	18-Mar		10	01-Jul	
10	19-Nov		10	25-Mar		11	08-Jul	
11	26-Nov		11	01-Apr		12	15-Jul	
12	03-Dec			08-Apr	Easter Break	13	22-Jul	
13	10-Dec			15-Apr	Easter Break		29-Jul	Summer Break
14	17-Dec						05-Aug	Summer Break
	24-Dec	Xmas Break					12-Aug	Summer Break
	31-Dec	Xmas Break					19-Aug	Summer Break
							26-Aug	Summer Break

Term Time Childcare Requirements for the Christmas 2018 Period

Child's Name: _____

I understand that my child's last session will be during the week commencing Monday 17th December and that funded sessions restart on Monday 14th January.

I do require my normal sessions for the week commencing Monday 7th January and I understand that these sessions will be payable as listed on the website

I do not require sessions for the week commencing Monday 7th January

PLEASE TICK ONE OF THE BOXES ABOVE

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY WEDNESDAY 31st OCTOBER

THANK YOU