**September Newsletter 2023**

Hello! and welcome back everyone and a very big welcome to our new families. We hope you all had a lovely summer break.

Wow what a week to start back at nursery, the summer weather had finally made an appearance.

All the children have settled well into nursery and have had a fantastic first week. It has been great to be back in setting with them all and seeing how much they have grown over the summer.

For our first newsletter back im afraid it will be a slightly longer one sorry.

I’ll start off with some gentle reminders and to inform our new parents of some handy information!!

**WEATHER/CLOTHING**

**PLEASE** can you ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the day’s weather. We access outdoors in all-weather I.E light clothing for warm weather and layers of warm clothing on colder days. A spare bag of clothing including pants/nappies, socks, jumper, top, bottoms and a spare pair of shoes.

Each item MUST be labelled including bags and lunch boxes. We do have several children with the same lunch boxes and bags, so this can sometimes get a tad confusing.

**PLEASE** can also please ensure your child has a **NAMED** water bottle with them daily.

**SPECIAL ITEMS/TOYS**:

We understand that at times children need a comforter and while this is ok to bring in for your child, can you please ensure that you only do so if you have a duplicate. As with any item there is a risk of the child placing it somewhere/going missing. We encourage you to, if possible, not allow your child to bring in toys from home. Again, if this item is misplaced or goes missing it can cause great upset and distress to the child.

**Lunch Boxes**:

We ask that you to provide a healthy lunch box for your child. In setting we do have a healthy eating Policy that we adhere to. This will also be attached to the email for you to have a look over.

A healthy lunch box can include items such as: wrap/sandwich/pasta, small piece of fruit/vegetable sticks, yogurt and a small cake or biscuit. Please refrain from sending in chocolate bars. PLEASE ensure that any items that are round (grapes, cherry tomatoes) are cut into length ways. This can prevent a choking hazard. WE are a **NUT FREE ZONE** please refrain from sending in any food items that may contain nuts including chocolate spread. Thank you.

**SNACK MENU**

Wehave introduced a new healthy snack menu, so far, the children have all enjoyed trying these new foods. Please see below our new menu. If there are any food items that your child cannot eat please do inform a member of the management team asap.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| Fresh Fruit, Breadsticks and crackers with butter | Toast with either Jam or Marmite spread with fresh fruit | Assorted cereals with milk or yoghurt with fresh fruit | Carrot and cucumber vegetable batons with Hummus dip and tortilla wraps and fresh fruit | Cheese and crackers with sliced ham, tomatoes and cucumber with fresh fruit |
| Milk or water | Milk or water | Milk or water | Milk or water | Milk or water |

**DROP OFF/COLLECTION PROCEDURE**:

Just to remind you all of our drop off/collection system.

**Squirrel Room** aged 2-3yrs: Please drop off and collect your child from the internal door by the office. A member of staff will be there to greet you with the register for you to sign your child in/out.

**Penguin Room** Pre-school aged 3-4yrs: In the morning and collection/drop off for 12pm is outside the classroom at the bottom of the ramp. A member of staff will be there with the register for you to sign your child in/out. Please encourage your child to walk up the ramp independently, where a member of staff will greet them. This helps them towards getting ready for school. When collecting at 3pm please come into the main building and down the corridor to the classroom. Please **do not enter** the room until a member of staff opens the door. This is to safeguard the children.

We open the gate at 8.50am, doors open at 9am. Please can ensure you arrive on time to collect your child at 3pm, the gate will open at 2.50pm.

The gate on Holcot Road to the Junior School does not open until 3.10pm.

**Please** can you also not allow your child to climb/use any equipment in the garden at the beginning and end of the day. This is to ensure your child is kept safe and the equipment has cost us a lot of money. Staff have set up ready in the mornings for the day ahead and at the end of the day staff have done their shut down checks and tidied and cleaned all of the garden area.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**IMPORTANT**:

**PARKING/School Collection:** Please refrain from parking on school site, parking is for staff members across the school site **ONLY**. This helps to keep the carpark free from congestion and children safe. Please can you stick to the footpaths with your child/children, we have noticed that a lot of parents are crossing through the carpark. This is very dangerous, as staff may not see a child when reversing out. Also, by sticking to the footpaths it helps to teach your child/ren how to stay safe around traffic.

**PARENTA**:

Parenta is our nursery app where you can access your child’s learning journey and keep up to date with current news and events. On here you will find photos of what your child has been up to and their progress. At times members of staff will use Parenta to send messages to you. If you have not already signed up to Parenta then please do. You will need to do this via a link sent to you through your email. Check your junk mailbox too. If you no longer have the link, please let a member of staff know and we can resend one.

**Other information**:

Your nursery needs you! We are a non-for-profit charity nursery. It is a legal requirement for us to have committee members, in order for the nursery to continue providing top quality childcare. We are seeking new members to join our committee. If we do not gain enough members, then will be forced to close the nursery!

If you are interested in joining our committee and becoming involved in how we run and operate then please see Kayleigh. All that we ask is that you attend 1 yearly AGM and up to 3 meetings throughout the year and possible an emergency meeting if needed. During meetings you will discuss the daily running of the nursery and any other matters that arise. Meetings are generally held during the day at the nursery, your child is welcome to come along if childcare is an issue. We even provide tea/coffee and yummy biscuits! Please come along to the next committee meeting on Wednesday 4th October @ 3.30pm and see what its all about. If you are interested which I’m sure you will be, then please ask a member of staff or speak to Kayleigh the settings manager.

**WHAT ARE WE DOING THIS TERM**.

This half term both room’s will be focusing on the topic “Getting To Know Me”. Penguins Room will be sending home an “all about me box”. Each child will have the opportunity to take the box home to fill with special items. A note will be sent with the box explaining what to put in there.

Squirrel Room, shortly an email will be sent out asking for you to send in a family photograph to go on our “All about me display board”. Both activities will encourage your child to learn about different families and customs that they share. It also helps build up their vocabulary and gives them a sense of self.

We will also be making the most of the sunshine whilst it lasts and exploring out outdoor area. We have re-set the garden and the children have already enjoyed the new art and craft and kitchen area. Inside the Squirrel room had a full revamp over the summer. The whole room was painted and new resources were sourced. The room now has a natural and calm feel and the children have loved walking round in the dressing up and high heels!!!!

Penguins have prepared for their first term with the pre-school children and have lots of lovely activities planned for the term.

**IMPORTANT DATES**:

We break up for October half term on Thursday 26th October and return on Monday 6th November.

Friday 27th October is an INSET DAY so nursery will be closed on this day.

Many thanks

Jo.