

Little Stars Newsletter

JULY 2019



Dear Parents/Carers

Well here we are the last newsletter for the academical year before the big summer break.

I would like to start this month's newsletter with a huge **GOOD LUCK** to all our children who will be sadly leaving us to move on to their Big School in September! We will be so sad to see you go, but at the same time are very excited for your new journey and know you will all be great!

Our term time **funded** children's last day is Tuesday 23rd July. The nursery will remain open for all others.

Upcoming event

We are holding a **Summer Day Prom** for all children and parents to attend in your beautiful outfits. We will have a DJ, an Entertainer, snacks, with a raffle and some other little activities going on. This will be held on **Saturday 20th July from 11am to 2pm**. A time for all to come together and get in those dancing shoes.



General/Reminders

Staff Changes: As you have seen many changes over recent months, I hope to reassure all parents that we are building upon our team to the highest standard and qualified staff. I know it can be daunting when a staff member leaves but we all are here to support the children and we would never negotiate the best learning and outcomes for our children's development. We are still recruiting for September.

New Staff: You all have met Naureen but not formally introduced. She is part of our Management team and an Early Years Education Manager who will oversee all curriculums from Birth to 5 Years and support our rooms with learning and developing our children and supporting with training needs. She is also based in the Baby Room as many have met her floating between the two rooms on the ground floor. Also, I would like to introduce you to Tanya who is the new Toddler Room Leader and an Early Years Professional. I hope we all can welcome them to our Little Stars family.

Volunteers: A Big Thank you to the students who have spent time with us this term. We wish them well for the future.

Sun hat and Sun cream: We have all been enjoying the beautiful sunshine this week; however, some children are still not coming into nursery with a sun hat or sun cream. Unfortunately, without both of these the children will not be able to spend time out in the garden! Please can you ensure a bottle of named sun cream and a named sunhat are left in their bag on your child's peg at all times – thank you. Let the staff member know.

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Buggies/ prams: A polite request, please ensure you leave the buggy or pram outside instead of bringing them in.

Sickness: We have recently had quite a lot of children come down with the dreaded sickness and diarrhoea! Lots of throat, chest infections, fevers and eye infections. Please can we remind you all that the children should not be returning to nursery until at least 48 hours after their last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. Please can we stress how important it is that the children do not come into nursery if they are unwell or have displayed any of these symptoms – particularly in the summer months it spreads very quickly! If you are giving your child Calpol, please do not bring them in as they are simply not well and need the rest. We will have to send the child home. We do not permit the pro-rata reduction of payment of fees if your child is absent from nursery due to illness (or holidays) whilst the nursery is open therefore full payment will still be required even the food charges.

Water Works: Thank you to everyone understanding the circumstances which were beyond our control for the Water Works that finally affected 100,000 people. We are not able to refund or give extra sessions as it was something that was not in our control. I am sure schools who were closed are not offering weekend to compensate for those days. PLEASE read your terms and conditions carefully to understand. This was a Health and Safety and Hygiene factor. We could not cook or use toilets etc or even have water to drink or wash hands.

Extra sessions/cancelling a place/swapping day:

If you would like to book extra sessions or cancel your child's place at nursery please contact the nursery management team in the first instance. We cannot accommodate transferring one day for another except in exceptional circumstances only by the Managers discretion. No swaps are allowed. Notice to leave the nursery must be put in writing via a letter or email addressed to the Nursery Manager. Notice should be given at the beginning of your child's week and must be 4 full weeks' notice.

New Term: We are taking new children from September and are aiming to fill all AM sessions first unless your child attends full day sessions or 30hrs. We are limited to funded spaces so please request your sessions ASAP to confirm. Its first come first serve basis. We have an Open Day Saturday 6th July for new parents to visit and see the nursery. We are already taking children for January 2020. Also, any recommendations you do and when they take on a successful place please claim your Chocolates from the office.

Pre-school: All children going into pre-school will have to purchase the uniform, it will be compulsory to wear from September. The Blue tops can be worn with black bottoms and comfortable Velcro fastening shoes/plimsoles. NO LACES or SANDLES (open toe) due to health and safety. Children need to be independent, confident and learn to dress and undress as required. Let's not make it difficult for the little ones.

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Children will still require indoor shoes but again no open toe allowed.

- **T-shirts will be 1 for £8.00 and 2 for £15.**
- **Sweat shirts will be 1 for £10 and 2 for £18.**

Please ask in the office to purchase them, ready for September.

Meals price change from September: Prices will be changing from the start of the new academical year in September 2019, this is a flat rate for all children that will be payable monthly.

- **AM £5.00 per session**
- **PM £5.00 per session**
- **All Day £8.00**

Or you can bring a healthy snack and meal. No crisps, biscuits, chocolates are allowed. We also cannot store anything in the fridge so please use your cool lunch boxes with their name on it. Please hand over the packed lunch boxes to the staff in the room your child is in.

Photographs: Thank you to all the parents who came to take pictures during half term and they have been processed now so hopefully we should get them in the next 2 weeks. Sorry for the delay, due to getting all the orders in.

Collecting on time: We have started to have a few parents turning up late recently when collecting their children both at 1pm and 6pm. Please can we remind you to ensure that when collecting your child at the end of the session that you arrive 5-10 minutes before so you can have a handover. We will be issuing out late fees on the day. **£7 for the first 10 minutes** and **£1 thereafter for every minute**. Thanks again for your co-operation with this. If you are 30 minutes late from 6pm we have a duty of care to call out of hours Social Services after all attempts have failed in contacting parents and emergency contacts.

Child collection: Can all parents please remember that if you have asked a friend or family member to come and collect your child you must inform the office before hand. As a nursery we have a duty to make sure we know who is picking up your child. If we haven't been told about any changes to the normal arrangements we cannot let your child leave without checking. A **PASSWORD** and **ID** will be required and no one from under the age of 16 years is allowed to pick up. If an unknown or unauthorised person arrives to collect a child then under no circumstances will we release the child to them even if the correct password is given. We will contact the parents/carers immediately to inform them that we cannot release the child. If required we will contact the police if the unknown person is suspected to be an intruder. If a known person arrives to collect a child but is not in a state which we deem suitable to care for a child (e.g. acting violently or under the influence of alcohol or other substances) then we will not release them. We will call another authorised person to come and collect the child.

In the event of disputes between parents that have not been through the courts, we cannot prevent the child from being collected by one of the parents. The other parent will be contacted to inform them that their child has been collected. The child's best interests and welfare are of paramount importance and every effort will be made to avoid distressing scenes in front of the child.

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In the event that there is a court order in place to prevent access by a parent then we will adhere to this and place a copy on the child's file.

Can you help: Do you have a hobby or skill you could share with the children? Would you like to help on a regular or occasional basis? Please come and talk to a member of staff if you would like to join our Little Stars Family.

Some changes: We are **introducing 3 Inset days** across the new academic year from September, one every term for staff training purpose. You will get a new calendar from September with term dates, inset dates and parent meeting week through the year. We will be closed over the Christmas period, we will be closing at 1pm on Christmas Eve and re-open on Thursday 2nd January, but for funded children it's the 6th January. You will be reminded as the year progresses. We are trying to make positive and steady changes that will benefit all children, staff and families attending our nursery.

New Contracts are available from the office or they would have been emailed to you from July onwards as they state new changes for your reference. We will be having a slight price increase from April 1st 2020. Any questions please speak to us.

Your opinion matters: Your voice, suggestions and ideas matter to US...we need them to improve and better things within reason. How we can improve our services, what more can we do to help and achieve... all needs to be voiced by you. A questionnaire will be going out soon and I would be grateful if you could fill and return it to the office.

Makaton course: We have a Makaton course next **Monday 8th July from 6.15pm to 8.45pm (2.5hrs) for our staff and we have 4 spaces free for parents.** If you are interested please let me know so I can book you on the course by the Courtesy of Dr Sinha. You will get a Certificate at the end of it. First come first serve basis.

If there is anything I can help you with please do not hesitate in contacting me. We have an open door policy and always available to help and support where we can.

It's been a pleasure working at Little Stars Nursery and I hope this journey together we can create something spectacular for the future.

Kind regards
Reena Pharma
Nursery Manager