



NEWSLETTER – September 2017

Welcome Back

It has been lovely seeing new and old faces back in preschool this week. A special warm welcome to all our new parents and children.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that we have an 'open door policy' at preschool and staff are available at the beginning and end of each session for brief conversations. However, if you feel you would like a little longer or need to speak to us in confidence, please arrange an appointment – either with your key person or Kristy.

Key Person

Every child is assigned a key person, the role of the key person is to ensure that your child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs. They will help the child become familiar with our setting, the key person will offer support for the child while in the setting and build a relationship with the child's parents. If you are unsure of who your child's key person is, please either check our staff board above the reception desk or speak to Kristy.

Footwear

Please send your child to pre-school wearing suitable outdoor shoes such as trainers or wellies, could you also ensure that they have a pair of soft sole shoes for indoors ie) plimsols or slippers. Shoes should fasten with Velcro or similar **NO LACES** as we actively encourage children to change their own shoes, promoting independence and self care.



Labelling

Could you please ensure that all your child's clothing and bags are labelled with their name, this includes coats and shoes. It doesn't have to be their full name, initials are fine.



Library System

Every child will be issued with a reading book upon starting at preschool. Please spend time sharing this book with your child at home and bring back in to preschool to change when they are ready to do so. Books should be returned to the registration table for changing during the session.



Morning Registration

On arriving at preschool in the morning, children are encouraged to find their own name from the registration table, this helps to embed their name recognition. They are also asked to collect a numicon card which they should match to the ones on the wall under the registration photos.





Nut Free Preschool

We have a strict **NO NUT** policy at pre-school. This is to protect children with nut allergies. This includes **peanut butter** and **Nutella**. Please check cereal bars for nuts. Please provide healthy balanced lunch boxes for your children. No fizzy drinks, sweets or anything chocolate covered are allowed at preschool.

Buggys



Could all buggys and prams please be left outside the classroom either parked along the path under the window or in the buggy park. Siblings can be brought in to the setting while settling your child.

Grapes/Cherry Tomatoes

It is advised when giving children foods such as grapes and cherry tomatoes, they should be cut in half and ideally quartered. Grapes should always be cut **lengthwise** so they can pass more easily through smaller throats and never width ways, because they'll still be big enough to choke on.



Parental help

We appreciate that many of you work or have younger children to care for. However, if you are free to help either on a regular basis or just occasionally, we would be delighted to see you. Whilst we are happy for you to bring in younger siblings please be aware that the pre-school is not set up for babies or under 2s, so you will need to keep an eye on them. We would also be happy to have the support of grandparents, carers and other relatives.

You do not need to help for the whole session, any time you can give will be appreciated. We have various tasks which need completing, this could be anything from completing a creative activity with the children to cleaning the chairs.

Committee

Continuing on with the volunteering theme, we are looking for new members to join our committee. One of the committee's roles is to arrange our fundraising events throughout the year ie) Christmas Montage and Sports Day, they also provide support on preschool outings. If you are interested in joining, please contact Donna T.



Learning Journals/Tapestry



Hopefully you are all aware that we use the online learning journal system, Tapestry. To access your child's Tapestry account, you require a password which should be emailed to you. Using Tapestry you will be able to see which activities your child has been involved

in at preschool and how they are developing. Parents/carers are also able to upload photos, videos and comments on what they have been doing. This gives your children's key worker an overall picture of your child's development and can also prompt conversations with your child in the setting. If you need any further information on Tapestry, please speak to Kristy.

Collection Changes

Please notify the manager on duty (ie) Kristy or Donna T of any changes in the collection arrangements for your child. This saves a lot of time and phone calls at the end of the session as we will not be able to allow your child to leave with an unauthorised collector.

Absence/Illness



If your child is unable to attend one of their sessions due to illness, please ensure you telephone or text preschool as soon as possible on the day they should be attending and continue to keep in contact until they are well enough to return. If your child will not be attending preschool due to a planned holiday, please advise Kristy of the dates they will not be in attendance. If your child does not attend preschool on one of their planned sessions and we have not been notified of a reason why, we have a responsibility to contact you to find out why they are not in preschool.

We Need Your Family Photos!!!

We still have plenty of room left in our family photo albums. Please could you bring in a family photo to be displayed in our family photo album. The photo album is kept in our book corner and is accessible to your child throughout the session. Your child will be able to use the photo for comfort and to share with their teachers and peers. All photos will be returned to the children when they leave preschool.



Payments

Where ever possible could all payments to the preschool please be made via our bank online, to help reduce our paperwork. If you require any further information please contact Donna T or Kristy.

Contact

If you need to change your sessions, have any invoicing queries or would like to order uniform, please email Donna T on thehullbridgepreschool@gmail.com

Towels



We ask that all children bring in a small towel, ideally a flannel labelled with their name each week. This is to be used by your child to dry their hands while in the setting.

Facebook Page



Please like and follow our Facebook page, **Hullbridge Preschool**. We regularly post updates and reminders on here.

Snack Contribution

Could all children who attend preschool for an AM session, please bring in a 20p contribution towards mid morning snack. Your child will be offered a choice of fruit and vegetables plus a carbohydrate. The snack that is being offered to the children each day is displayed on our Healthy Eating board.



Birthdays



This half term, the following will be celebrating their birthdays. Happy Birthday!!

| | | | | | |
|--------|-------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| Thomas | Billy | Scarlett | Joseph | Gregory | Isabel |
| Aiden | Leigh | Shirley | Sophie | | |

Important Dates

Last day of half term – Friday 20th October
Back to school – Monday 30th October

Thank You

Donna T, Kristy, Marie, Karen, Shirley, Donna R, Leigh, Sophie, Cat and Committee