
Huntingfield Pre-School

Summer Term July 2020

www.huntingfieldpreschool.co.uk

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NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers

Wow what a surreal few months it has been. Who would have predicted a year ago, that we would ALL be in this situation 12 months on...For many it has been a very stressful and anxious time but it has also given many families much needed quality time with their children. We have learnt to do things that we probably would never have done before because we were just too busy. So however you have dealt with the experience of Lockdown I hope that you have all taken something positive away!

For us at Huntingfield we were just glad to return, albeit just for 3 1/2 weeks. The children were very happy to come back and skipped in through a sea of bubbles without any upset at all! I think they were just so happy to see their friends again! We tried to make being back at pre-school as near to the normal Huntingfield experience as possible and I think it generally was. Of course there was much more hand washing and cleaning than before but generally it felt the same.

This year we have 31 children leaving us-11 children are moving to Forestdale, 7 to Greenvale, 6 to Courtwood, 2 to Attwood, 2 to Gresham, 2 to St Johns and 1 to Applegarth We managed to have our usual school uniform morning prior to breaking up and this gave all the children the chance to show off their school colours etc.

All too quickly our last day of term arrived, it was a celebration for the 17 children who had returned but were now leaving. We ensured that their last day was a 'special' one, albeit very different this year.

I/We would like to say a 'BIG' thank you to our lovely parents for the very generous gifts and kind words said by Mrs Collingwood on our last day. We were made to feel very appreciated-THANK YOU!!

September

For those children returning in September I have been and will be emailing out more updates and details of what this is going to look like, once I know. The Government guidance is continually changing so I want to ensure my plan is a definite one so not to confuse you all!

I can confirm that my existing children are expected back on Tuesday 8 September and it may be decided that start times and drop off times will be staggered but I will confirm in due course.

The new children will be starting their Huntingfield journeys from Monday 14 September and I will be in touch with them privately.

Extra Curricular Activities

At the time of writing this, sadly Alison from Mad Academy has decided to call it a day. This is very sad as we started our business together just over 10 years ago. She has been brilliant at Huntingfield and the children have loved her classes! Colin my photographer has now retired. He has been taking photographs at Huntingfield for approx. 20 years and has become a good friend, I shall miss him and his wonderful photos!

I am hoping that we will be able to continue with Mini Football, Musical Bumps and Phonic Stars at some point later in the year but again we just don't know at this stage!

Change of Child Details

Please, please, ensure you keep me up to date of any changes to your contact details. It is imperative that I am able to contact you or any of your contacts in the case of an emergency!!!!

Lunch Club

I am hoping to restart Lunch Club in September/October but this will depend on how many wish to attend.

Funding

For children who are eligible for Government funding, I will be organising the relevant forms to be completed once we return. These will be given out for you to complete at home and return.

Payments

With effect from September, the fees will be increasing to £17 per morning. The annual charge towards all the extra curricular activities will remain unchanged at £30 (will only be charged if the activities start up again) as does Lunch Club at £5.

Transition

For those of you whose children are starting Reception I would suggest that over the Summer you continue to prepare them for that transition. I have often been told by the Reception teachers that what they most like the new children to be able to do is to be independent! So, at home encourage them to-

- Use the toilet independently
- Wash their hands properly for 20 seconds
- Put on their coat and shoes
- Dress and undress in preparation for PE
- Carry food on a tray (this is something we do at Huntingfield as some children will have school dinners, so learning to balance is good)

Of course, the Academics are important but the above at this stage is more important! If you want to focus on the academics, then practice phonics- getting them to recognise letter sounds not names, counting and number recognition (oxford tree learning games are fab) and to control a pencil to begin to form letters. Developing their fine motor skills will help with writing/using scissors, so using pincers to pick up objects, using playdough etc will help. Most importantly READ to your children and encourage them to independently look at books, this is such an important part of a child's education!!

Confident children also find transition much easier. So, try and build that with positivity and encouraging a 'Can Do' attitude.

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who has helped out in the Pre-School this year, especially Rachel Butler and Kerstin Arneill for running the parent coffee mornings. **THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH**

Finally

For us the focus after returning was mainly on settling the children back into routine, to build on their confidence and independence and to rekindle friendships. However we were also keen to prepare them for Transition to Primary School and I am happy to say that I think the children are now well prepared and ready to cope with their new schools in September. We wish them all Good Luck in Reception and of course for the future too!

I hope you all have a lovely Summer in whatever you get up to.....

We look forward to seeing you back on **Tuesday 8 September**.

Elaine and Team