



Term 1 - September 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the long summer holidays. A warm welcome to the new parents and children. We are looking forward to hearing all about the exciting adventures the children have had over the summer.

We would also like to introduce you to our new team members:

Hannah is Level 3 qualified, has been working in childcare for 12 years and 'enjoys all the fun and challenges that come with it'.

Sabrina is also a Level 3 and will be working full time including some Breakfast Club sessions.

Siobhan is our new apprentice. She has some experience working in a pre-school and is looking forward to training towards Level 3.

Sam Abbott will be joining us in a few weeks as our new Manager. She has considerable experience of working with children and also as the Manager of a charity run Pre-school.

Due to the staff changes, some children will have a new keyperson this term and we will advise you who that is when you first come in. If you have any concerns at all about this please do come and speak to me as soon as possible.

Sessions

It is really important that we start our sessions on time, starting late impacts on the rest of our plans during the day. Here is a reminder of drop off and pick up times. We do have a fine for frequent late collection fine .

Morning session 9:15am – 11:45am

Lunch 11:45am – 12:30pm

Afternoon 12:30pm – 3pm

We have an 'open door policy' at the beginning of each session where you can have a brief conversation with your child's key person or the management team. However, if you feel you want a little longer please arrange an appointment – either with your key person or with me.

Theme

This term we will use the theme Ourselves as a way of introducing the various concepts and learning experiences we would like your child to enjoy. Please take a look at the Planning Web in the lobby, o the white board and look out for Facebook updates.

Each term there will be a core selection of story and information books to support the ideas we are trying to develop in all areas of the EYFS curriculum. There is a list below in case you want to follow these up with trips to the library. We also have a loaning library in the lobby.

The first couple of weeks we will focus on developing social skills and personal independence – caring for each other, negotiating, turn-taking, hand washing and toileting skills. We will also look at why it is necessary to have some agreed rules for behaviour and why we need to take care of our equipment, ourselves and each other. The children will have us create the rules for pre-school.

Have a look at our display, see if your child can find their photo from their home visit. We also have a 'Our learning journey' display that has weekly photos of what the children have been doing and how it links to the EYFS.

We plan to use every day experiences to develop mathematical, mark-making and word recognition skills both inside and in the garden. Our aim is support your child to become an enthusiastic, competent and independent learner. Encouraging your child's independence at home to get themselves dressed and put on their own shoes is a great place to start.

The theme Ourselves provides rich opportunities for children to look at their five senses, think about how bodies work, talk about their families and their immediate environment. We will have a visit from a dentist and doctor to talk keeping ourselves healthy. We will also talk about sleeping using traditional tales such as the Princess and the pea.

The children will also have the opportunity to take part in lots of fun sensory play such as playdough, gloop, shaving foam and sand dough.

Physical activities are planned to develop and extend both fine and gross motor skills and spatial awareness. With the older children we will be focusing particularly on using a tripod pencil grip and refining scissor skills. During our focus music and movement time we will be working on spatial awareness, listening and responding to patterns in music and moving using different parts of the body. The children will also get to take part in Boogie Beats once a week. Children need to develop strong gross motor skills and core stability before focussing on being able to mark make and pencil grips.

The children will be using various art mediums to paint self-portraits and draw pictures. Using mirrors to look closely at their features and mix a paint to match their own skin tone. We will explore rhyme and rhythm and listen to a wide variety of music. Our imaginative play areas and activities, both indoors and out, are planned to encourage the children to recreate roles and experiences.

Key Dates

Start of Term 1 - Thursday 6th September, staggered start dates for new children

Parents Evening – Thursday 27th September

Committee Meeting - October (tbc)

End of Term 1 Friday 19th October

Inset Day - Monday 29th October – Little Pippins is closed

Start of Term 2 – Tuesday 30th October

AGM – 8pm Monday 19th November

Christmas performance - tbc

Christmas Party - Thursday 20th December

End of term 2 - Thursday 20th December at 12.30pm

Start of Term 3 – Monday 7th January

Footwear

Please make sure that your children wear sensible shoes, that they are able to put on themselves (or with a little help). If they wear sandals then socks are advisable and no flip-flops. If children wear wellies into pre-school then they will need another pair of shoes to change into. All shoes including wellies should be named.

Name labels

Please make sure that ALL items of clothing, water bottles and lunch boxes are all clearly labelled.

Snack

Please bring in healthy, nut free snacks that we can prepare and share as a buffet with the children. Things like fruit, breadsticks, rice cakes, crackers, popcorn, cheese etc. Drinks bottles should only contain water – no squash please.

Car Park

We are very lucky to have a car park but this can get bust at times. Please ensure you drive carefully, maximum 5mph, when entering and leaving the carpark and give way to pedestrians. If cars are seen to be driving unsafely entering and exiting you will be asked not to park in the carpark. Please do not park in the disabled / emergency vehicle space.

Facebook

We post weekly updates on our Facebook page and also reminders of things that are happening. Please join our group to be part of these updates.

Parental help

I 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 to cater for very young toddlers and babies so you will need to keep an eye on them. We would also be happy to have the support of grandparents and carers. There is a list of dates on the whiteboard outside. If you are daunted by the idea of coming in for a whole session or not knowing what you will be asked to do, you can sign up for short periods and particular tasks. For example, coming in to wash up the paint brushes or to sharpen pencils would be a tremendous help. We also arrange gardening days that all the family can come along to.

Outside activities

We try to go outside whatever the weather and your child will need appropriate and named outdoor clothes for particular times of the year – wellies, warm coats. In cold weather, please remember to provide a coat even if you are bringing your child to preschool by car.

Sunny Days

We can still get some lovely warm days in September so, on such days, please remember to apply sun cream to your child before bringing them to pre-school. We have a supply of sun cream that we will put on the children before they go outdoors. We ask for a donation of £2 towards the cost of the sun cream per term. We also have sun hats for the children to wear.

Baking

Baking with the children is not only a really lovely thing to do but it covers so many important areas of the EYFS. This term we will be making Pizza Faces. The children bake in pairs with an adult but they are encouraged to be as independent as possible. It would be great if we could have donations, a note will appear on the whiteboard outside and Facebook when we need donations of the following

Cheese
Tomato puree
Pitta Bread
Mushrooms
Peppers
Tinned sweet corn

Online Learning Journals

We use an online system called Tapestry to log your child's journey with us at Little Pippins. If you are new you may have already been emailed an online password or will receive this within the next few days. You will be able to securely log onto the system and see what adventures your child has been up to. As your child's most important and prime educator we value your input. For example, a note of the first time your child fastens his/her shoes, dresses unaided or rides his/her bike without stabilisers are all useful contributions. You will be able to access the All About Me page and it is a great help to your key person if you can fill this in.

Box modelling/creative work

- Cardboard – not toilet rolls
- Clean plastic bottles or tubs
- Fabric
- Bits of ribbon, string, wool, felt, lace
- Wrapping paper, tissue paper, wallpaper
- Cotton wool
- Straws
- Coloured feathers
- Bottle tops or lids

PLEASE NOTE ALL BOX MODELLING ITEMS NEED TO BE FROM NUT FREE PRODUCTS & SHOULD NOT BE OLD MEDICINE OR DETERGENT CONTAINERS

Mark-making

- Old calendars
- Diaries
- Note books
- Post its
- Envelopes
- Other unwanted items of stationery

Key Books

Dogger – Shirley Hughes
Alfie stories – Shirley Hughes
Lucy and Tom go to School – Shirley Hughes
Titch stories – Pat Hutchins
Pass the Jam Jim – Kaye Umansky
Home Before Dark – Ian Beck
This is the Bear – Sarah Hayes
I Want My Teddy – Jez Alborough
I Want my Potty – Tony Ross

We are looking forward to getting to know our new starters and having a fun and inspiring first term.
Vicky (Acting Manager), and the team.