



Little Pippins Newsletter – September 2016



Dear Parents,

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

During the summer we have been busy creating new resources and areas in the garden. We would like to say a big thank you to Lisa Smith and her colleagues from Network Rail. They spent the whole day at Pippins, digging, painting, clearing the pond, making bunting and lots more.



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.

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 and on our website.

Each term there will be a core selection of story and information books chosen primarily for pleasure but also 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.

During the first couple of weeks there will be a 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.

We plan to use every day experiences to develop mathematical, mark-making and word recognition skills. We do not use worksheets at *Little Pippins* as we believe there are so many more exciting ways to engage a child's interest in any particular subject. Our aim is support your child to become an enthusiastic, competent and independent learner.

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. Can you please bring in a photograph of your child as baby and a photo of your home to create a book.

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 be using various art mediums to paint self-portraits and draw pictures. 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.

Footwear

Please make sure that your children wear sensible shoes, 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.

Name labels

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

Key Dates

Committee Meeting Monday 19th September 7.30pm

AGM Monday 19th September at 8pm

End of Term 1 Friday 21st October

Start of Christmas term Tuesday 1st November

Christmas performance 11th & 12th December at 9:30am

Christmas Party Friday 16th December 10:30am – 12:30pm

End of term Friday 16th December 12:30pm finish

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.

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 send in coats even if you are bringing your child to pre-school in a car.

Sunny Days

We can still get some lovely warm days in September so have a supply of sun cream that we will put on the children, we ask for a donation of £1 towards the cost of the sun cream. We also have sun hats for the children to wear.

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. Please feel free to access these to the system

Please recycle materials by bringing in the following unwanted items...

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 stationary

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 and cupcakes. The children bake in pairs with an adult but they are encouraged to be as independent as possible. It would great if we could have donations of

- Flour
- Icing sugar
- Margarine
- Cake cases

Some of the stories we will be enjoying this term are...

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

I'm Sorry! – Sam McBratney

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 have a fun packed term.

Amy Peach

Senior Practice Manager