



September 2017 Letter



Dear Parents/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 have been busy too over the summer. We have had the interior painted, a new bathroom for the children, a new website as well as creating new resources and areas in the garden. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone that helped with this.

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.

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.

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; all of the activities we provide link to areas of the EYFS curriculum.

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. 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. 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. Encouraging your children'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. 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 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.

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 £2 towards the cost of the sun cream. We also have sun hats for the children to wear.

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, teacakes etc. Also, drink bottles should only contain water.

Car Park

We are very lucky to have a car park but this can get busy at times. If you live locally, we strongly urge you to walk to Pippins. If you have to come by car, please ensure you drive carefully when entering and leaving the carpark. Please do not park in the disabled / emergency vehicle space.

Pedestrians, please take care especially through the entrance gate and keep your child under close supervision at all times.

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 able 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 that you can sign up on to help in session. 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, just coming in to wash up the paintbrushes or to sharpen pencils would be a tremendous help.

There are many other ways that parents can help outside of the school day - look out for information about our autumn gardening day coming up soon 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 such as wellies, warm coats. In cold weather, please remember to send in coats even if you are bringing your child to preschool in a car.

Forest School

Forest school will commence once all of our new starters have joined us. Each term there will be two different groups attending. It runs on a Tuesday PM and Thursday AM, if you are free to help at these sessions please let a member of staff know. Please don't let your children play in the Forest School areas at drop off and collection times.

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.

Committee Meetings

Little Pippins is a charity and would not be able to exist without volunteers who, amongst other things, manage the maintenance of the building and garden, plan and help with fundraising, recruit staff, set policies, plan future development of the pre-school. We must have parents of children currently at Pippins as part of this amazing team so if you are interested in finding out more about how Pippins operates or if there is a way you can help please do let me know.

All parents are members of the pre-school and are welcome at any management committee or fundraising team meeting. The next meeting is Monday 11th September so please do come along even if just to see what's involved. At the AGM in November, the committee is re-elected and we would love to have some new people on board.

Items wanted for 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

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 fruit rock cakes. 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
- Margarine
- Tomato puree
- Dried fruit such as apricots and raisins

Fees and Funding

Invoices for the next 2 terms pre-school fees have been raised and you should receive yours in the first week. Fees are due in advance and can be paid weekly, monthly or termly, details of how to pay are on the invoice. If your child is eligible for funding, declaration forms are included with your invoice and must be returned to the office by the date specified. If you have any questions at all about these, please do speak to Brenda (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays).

Key Books for this term

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

Key Dates

Committee Meeting - Monday 11th September 8pm

AGM - Monday 13th November 8pm (preceded by short committee meeting at 7.30pm)

Parents evening – to be advised

End of Term 1 - Friday 20th October

Start of Christmas term - Tuesday 31st October

Christmas performance (possibly Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December at 9.45am – to be confirmed)

Christmas Party - Tuesday 19th December in the Village Hall

End of term - Tuesday 19th December - finish after the party at 12.30 pm

We are looking forward to getting to know our new starters and having a fun and inspiring first term.

Amy Peach

Senior Practice Manager