



Newsletter March 2024

Happy Easter!

We hope everyone has a lovely Easter Break. We break up on Thursday 29th March and reopen on Monday 15th April.

Preschool Photographer

Hallet photography are visiting us on Monday 24th June 9am to 10am to take individual and leavers photos for the children. If your child does not normally attend a Monday but you wish to have their photo taken please speak to a member of staff.

Committee Meeting

Our next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 23rd April at 7pm in our preschool room, all parents are welcome to attend. This is your opportunity to find out more about the running of the preschool.

Swap and Share Rail

When the weather allows we will be putting out our swap and share rail again. Please just help yourself to any of these clothing items, toys, books etc ; you don't need to donate anything in return, however if you do have something you wish to donate to share with your fellow parents please place it on the rail or hand it to a member of staff.

Wish List

You may have noticed that we have started to put a chalk board on the gate stating items we currently need (the current request is for Table Salt and Flour for playdough). The board changes regularly and if you are able to help with any of these Wish requests we would be very thankful.

Play area consultation

Fareham Borough Council are improving Play areas at Course Park Crescent and Elsanta Crescent in Titchfield Common, and Laurel Gardens in Locks Heath. They would like you to help them decide what new equipment could be installed. Let them know your views by Tuesday 2 April. Find out more and have your say at www.fareham.gov.uk/consultations

School Meal Information for children starting school September 2024

School meals are a fantastic opportunity for children to get together and share the experience of trying new foods. Knowing that children are having a healthy, delicious and sustainably cooked meal every day, is one less thing for parents to

worry about. To find out more about school meals and what is on offer visit [Save money with school lunches | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Families on low incomes may also benefit from the School Pupil Premium, visit: [Free school meals | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#) to find out more and to see if your child is eligible for free school meals.

Families whose child may wish to eat a special diet menu at school should register on the portal by 16 June to ensure their menu is ready for September [Special diets | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

NHS Healthy Start

NHS Healthy Start is the UK's food welfare scheme for pregnant women and young children in low-income families. The scheme is there to help families who are most in need of this support. Families will get help to buy healthy food and drink including fresh, frozen and tinned fruit and vegetables, fresh, dried and tinned pulses and infant formula milk. Families will also be able to access free Healthy Start vitamins. Further details regarding eligibility and how to apply can be found at [Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#)

Measles

You may have seen the news regarding the rise in cases of measles in London and the large outbreaks in the West Midlands. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has now declared a national incident in order to focus actions to limit the spread. Further outbreaks of measles will spread to other towns and cities unless urgent action is taken to increase Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination uptake in areas at greatest risk. Children who get measles can be very poorly and some will suffer life changing complications. To support this incident the Department of Education (DfE) has published [What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Exclusion period for Illnesses and Infections

Just a reminder that a full list of exclusion periods from preschool for childhood illnesses and infections can be found at the end of our Health and Safety policy, this along with all our other policies and procedures can be found on our website [Preschool | Little Sunbeams Preschool \(Fareham\) | Titchfield Common](#)

Also a reminder that when considering whether or not to send your child to preschool, **if a child is unwell enough to need Calpol (or a similar type of pain relief) before attending preschool, then they are NOT well enough to attend.**

Reminder for parents claiming '30 hours childcare' in the

Summer 2024 term All parents who are working, have a 3 or 4 year old and want to claim funded extended hours (30 hours childcare), **must** make sure they have applied to [HMRC](#) no later than 31 March 2023. All parents with a 30 hours

code need to make sure their details are up to date. They must do this every three months: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account>.

All new codes must be verified by preschool by 31st March 2024, if you think you are eligible and wish to take up this funding please speak to a member of staff.

Tax Free Childcare If you pay childcare fees you may be able to get help with paying for this through the Tax Free Childcare scheme. Visit www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare to get more information and check your eligibility.

Name Everything Please

Can you please ensure your child's possessions are named (Water bottle, lunchbox etc, coat etc.) We have up to 26 children in at the same time and with some duplicate items, so matching items to their owners can be very confusing.

Family Photo album

We have a photo album in preschool holding photos of the children with their families. This is a real talking point for the children and can also be a comfort when they need to see photos of their loved ones. Could you please create an observation on your child's Tapestry Journal and attach a recent photo.(Please include in the observation the names of all the family members shown.) We will then print this out.

Policies

Our policies are regularly reviewed and updated. Please go to our website to read the current policies.

Waypoint Hub

The Waypoint Hub provides food parcels and support to those who need it. It is situated in the same building as the preschool. It is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am to 12 noon.

Services offered include:

Food Parcels – For anyone who is struggling and needs help with food, either as a one off or to help you get through a difficult period

More 4 Less – For a £5 donation you can get at least £15 worth of items (Fresh, Frozen, Tinned, Packets, Household and Toiletries)

Citizens Advice Outreach – Drop in to get advice Tuesdays 9.30 – 11.30

DON'T STRUGGLE ALONE – HELP IS AVAILABLE

Dates for your diary

Easter Holiday – Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024 (No Preschool)

Committee Meeting – Tuesday 23rd April – 7pm in preschool

May Day – Monday 6th May 2024 (No Preschool)

Summer Half Term Holiday – Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May (No Preschool)

Hallet Photography – Monday 24th June 9am

Last Day of Academic Year – Thursday 18th July

Leavers Party Friday 19th July.