



# Newsletter October 2023

## Hello!

Hello we hope you had a lovely half term. We say hello to a new Little Sunbeam : Archie we hope he thoroughly enjoys his learning journey with us.

**Annual General Meeting (AGM)** Our Committee AGM will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm in the preschool room . All parents are invited to attend.

As mentioned our current chairperson is stepping down at this meeting and we were looking for a new chairperson to take his place, We have been very lucky that two of our parents have stepped forward and wish to be considered as Chairperson and Co Chairperson.

They are Scott Turnbull and Katie Collins-Hardman. They have both written a brief introduction to introduce themselves.

*Both of my children have been fortunate to attend Little Sunbeams and I have always been thoroughly impressed by the quality of care shown by Lyn, Amanda and the rest of the team.*

*I'm a Chartered Financial Planner and spend my time advising local individuals and businesses on their financial planning needs, I'm hoping my experience can help support Little Sunbeams to continue delivering such an essential and high-quality service that is an asset to our local community.*

*Scott Turnbull (Ruby's Dad)*

*My name is Katie and I have 2 children Ella 8 years old and Dylan who is 2 years old attends the preschool. My qualifications are in child care and I worked in a nursery for many years before having my children, it is something that I really love to do. I am not currently working in childcare and so I am really pleased to be considered for this position so I can put my knowledge to good use. I have lots of good ideas that I think would be a lot of fun, I really want to be part of the continued success of the preschool and this role is perfect for that!*

*Katie Collins-Hardman (Dylans Mum)*

If you wish to attend the AGM you are invited to cast your vote to appoint Scott and Katie in person. However if you are unable to attend please complete a Proxy voting form no later than Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. This will be available at the gate at drop off/pickup and will allow our current chairperson to vote on your behalf.

## Key Person Catch ups

Key person phone catch ups to take place between 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November. These 15 minute calls allow your child's key person to discuss progress, any issues and generally catch up with you. Your child's key person will arrange a time to call you soon.

**Your Childs Christmas Card** Hopefully by now you will have seen the proof for your child's artwork. Just a reminder that payment for these must be made by bank transfer and the form returned to us by 10<sup>th</sup> November

### **Hallett Photography**

Hallett Photography are visiting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December to take individual (and sibling) photos of the children. If your child does not normally attend a Monday but you wish for them to have their photo taken please speak to a member of staff.

### **A visit from Father Christmas**

Father Christmas and his Elf will be taking time from their busy schedule to visit us on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December between 10:30 and 12:30. If your child does not normally attend on Wednesday and still wishes to visit Father Christmas we will provide more information soon.

Please note we will not be having a 'Christmas Party' this year as we will be getting ready for our 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January. More information regarding this Parent and Child event will follow shortly.

### **Starting School September 2024**

If your child was born between 1 Sept 2019 and 31 Aug 2020 they are due to start year R in September 2024. **Applications open on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023** and are made through <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning>. **Applications close 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**Information regarding school open days was given to you in a separate letter.**

### **Reminder for parents claiming '30 hours childcare' in the Spring 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 December 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, 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](http://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare) to get more information and check your eligibility.

### **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.  
Thank you

## **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**

AGM – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 8pm – In preschool.

Christmas Card Payment deadline – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Hallet Photography Visit – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December – 9am-10am

Father Christmas Visit – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – 10.30 – 12.30 (More information to follow)

Christmas Holiday – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 (No Preschool)

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Preschool 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party – TBC but no usual sessions.

Spring Half Term Holiday – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (No Preschool)

Easter Holiday – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (No Preschool)

May Day – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (No Preschool)

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

Last Day of Academic Year – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July

Leavers Party Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.