



Newsletter September 2023

Hello!

Hello and welcome back its been lovely to see everyone again. We also say hello to some new Little Sunbeams : James, Jaxon, Keanu, Lucas and Sparrow. We hope they thoroughly enjoy their learning journey with us.

We also say hello to Erica who is joining us as a Play Assistant.

Little Sunbeams 15th Birthday Party: Little Sunbeams will have been open 15 years on Friday 5th January 2024, we are therefore planning a birthday event for this day. The preschool will be closed for the normal session; however we will be sending invites to our party for all children and their families. More information to follow soon.

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 1st November 2023** and are made through <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning>. **Applications close 15th January 2024.**

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

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Our Committee AGM will take place on Thursday 9th November at 8pm in the preschool room . All parents are welcome to attend. We are looking for your help as we need to find a new Chair person, we recently sent out a letter to you. If you would like to become more involved please talk to Lyn or Amanda for more information.

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](https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account) 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 31st 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 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

Shoes

We ask that your child wears appropriate footwear for indoor and outdoor play. These should be closed in toed shoes (no open toed sandals or shoes with laces please, crocs are fine in sport mode!). Children can injure their toes in open toed sandals when playing on ride on toys in the garden and laces do not promote independence at this age.

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

Half Term Break – Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October (No Preschool)

AGM – Thursday 9th November 8pm – In preschool.

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

Friday 5th January – Preschool 15th Birthday Party – TBC but no usual sessions.

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

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

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

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

Last Day of Academic Year – Thursday 18th July

Leavers Party Friday 19th July.