



News Letter Autumn Term 2015

Welcome from the Committee

The Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to our new and existing children and their parents/carers at the start of this new academic year. Little John's Preschool is a registered educational charity overseen by a small committee of dedicated parents, staff, and parents of former Preschool children. We welcome all new parents/carers to the Committee; as parents of attending children you automatically become a member of the Little John's Preschool charity. All members are eligible to join the committee and get involved in the running the Preschool.

This is a great way to contribute to the education of your child/ren and help shape the Preschool as an organization created by the local community for the local community. Not only do we share their facilities, but we also work in partnership with St. John the Baptist Church and St. John the Baptist Primary School across the road.

Our next Committee meeting will take place on **Thursday, 1st October 2015, at 8.00pm**. Please speak to Mellonie or myself if you would like to find out more about getting involved.

Degree success

Congratulations to Mellonie on completing her B.A. degree in Early Years Education with the University of Derby in July this year. What a tremendous success as she graduated with First Class Honours!

Tim Rattay (Chair)

littlejohnscommittee@gmail.com

Finances

Little Johns Preschool is registered with Leicester City Council as a validated provider for 2, 3 and 4 year old NEG funded children. We offer the maximum 15 hours free funded places to children accessing this funding, as well as providing additional paid sessions to those parents wanting their children to access the provision privately. Money to run the Preschool is provided from the government funding and fees payable by parents. Obviously the Preschool must be financially viable but we do not run to make a profit, all additional monies are put back into the Preschool in the form of new resources to provide a quality provision that will engage and develop your child. We try to keep our fees at a minimum and ask that parents help us by ensuring that any fees due are paid on time.

The new term

The Autumn term started a few weeks ago and it has been lovely to see how the returning children have been helping the new starters, showing them where everything is and helping them make the most out of their time at Preschool. Autumn term is always a busy time with many new starters and lots of different community events. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has a learning goal for children to know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions. This is reflected in the Preschools overall approach to the development of cultural understanding and diversity and your child may come home this term and talk about different ideas to you or present you with artwork you are not familiar with. Learning about different belief systems helps eliminate prejudice and fosters knowledgeable debates so if you feel that there is something that we may have over looked, please talk to us so that we can incorporate it into the children's learning.

Helping At Home: children learn through investigating and exploring so talk about your culture and beliefs; acknowledge similarities and differences between yourselves and your friends/neighbours, when you are out take time to point out the diverse buildings of worship etc.

Parents Meeting

We are looking at holding parents meetings week commencing 5th October when parents can have a short chat with their child's Key Worker and discuss how they are settling in, their development within the preschool etc.

Staffing

At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to Kam as she had decided to move back to Hong Kong to be with her family, she was a favourite with children, parents and staff and will be greatly missed. We have also said goodbye to Georgia, she has decided to pursue an alternative career path and we wish her every success in her future endeavours. Some parents may remember Heena our Leicester College student who joined us last term, Heena will be resuming her placement with us shortly.

Fund Raising

We currently have a fund raising initiative in progress; the children have designed Christmas cards to be printed and will be bringing them and an order form home shortly. If you would prefer to make a different design with your child, two sheets of paper are being sent home too.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

We may be eligible to claim extra money from the local government for some 3 and 4 year olds. An EYPP letter has been issued to every applicable parent, please complete it and return it as soon as possible as we have a deadline to meet if we are to claim any additional funding. All data is confidential and not retained by the preschool.

Weather

As the weather will no doubt get colder over the coming weeks could we kindly remind you to clearly label all coats, hats, scarves, gloves, wellies etc.... as in accordance with good practice the children have access to the outside area whatever the weather. May we also remind parents to send a change of clothes as sometimes accidents happen when children are absorbed in their play, and the Preschool has a very limited supply of donated clothes?

Looking forward to an engaging remainder of term,

The Staff and Committee of Little Johns Preschool

Just a quick reminder of the term dates:

Mid Term Break	Monday 19 th to Friday 23 rd October 2015
Schools Close	Friday evening 18 th December 2015
Schools reopen	Tuesday 5 th January 2016

(<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/177615/leicester-city-council-term-dates-2015-16.pdf>)

Company No. 7119734

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