



News Letter Spring Term 2016

Welcome from the Committee

The Committee would like to extend belated New Year good wishes to our new and existing children and their parents/carers. 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, 28th January 2015, at 8.00pm**. Please speak to Mellonie or myself if you would like to find out more about getting involved.

Tim Rattay (Chair)

littlejohnscommittee@gmail.com

Thank you!

All the staff would like to say a big 'Thank you' to all the children and parents who bought Christmas cards and presents, they are not necessary but are very much appreciated – thank you.

Contact information

If anyone had a new telephone for Christmas please ensure you update us with your new number for emergencies.

Exciting news!!

We have some very exciting news to share – the Preschool Committee has been in discussions with the Church regarding extending the opening hours and we are happy to be able to announce that as of 11th April, the Preschool will be open Monday afternoons too. This means that we can offer a maximum of 24 hours childcare Monday to Thursday from Easter. We hope that these extended hours will benefit parents as it provides more flexibility to use the 15 funded hours or take an additional chargeable session.

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

January has begun with several new children joining the preschool and it is lovely to see how well they have settled in with the help of their new friends. This term we are hoping to introduce some parent work shops where parents and carers can come along and engage with activities aimed at school readiness, oral hygiene and physical play amongst other things.

It is that time of year when coughs, colds and runny noses are going about and we would like to remind all parents of our commitment to promoting personal health and hygiene. Please encourage your child to put their hand over their mouth when they cough or sneeze, to use and then dispose of the tissue in the bin and to frequently wash their hands with soap to remove any germs.

Helping At Home: If your child has done anything exciting during the week-end or holidays or has achieved a particular milestone, we would like to know so that we can talk about such an event with them. We have "WOW Moments - Parent Voice" slips for you to complete available on the signing in table in the morning. If you wish to include photos with some of these we would love to see them and they will be added to your child's learning journey to give a complete overview of your child's learning experiences at Little Johns and at home, on outings and holidays. If printing photos is difficult for you, you can email them to the preschool and we will print them for your child's learning journey.

Parent Consultations

We are holding parent consultations week commencing 8th February 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

Congratulations to Shan on completing the SENDCO course last term, this now means that as a setting we have two staff trained and qualified as Special Educational Needs and Disability co-ordinators. While the preschool core staff remain the same – Mellonie, Yvette, Rabia and Shan, due to our numbers increasing Vijya has joined us as a preschool assistant. Vijya is highly qualified and currently studying towards a degree in education. We also have Sumaiya our new apprentice who is finishing her level 2 in childcare and will shortly commence her level 3. Sumaiya will be working closely with the children and parents as she completes her studies. We have two students from Leicester College with us this year working on different days, Heena and Maryam. These extra adults in the setting will ensure that the children receive higher adult:child interaction to stimulate and promote development.

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 a busy and engaging term,

The Staff and Committee of Little Johns Preschool

Just a quick reminder of the term dates:

Mid Term Break Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2016

Schools Close Thursday afternoon 24th March 2016

Schools reopen Monday 11 April 2016

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

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