



Welcome from the Committee

A warm welcome to those children and parents who have joined Little John's this term, thank you for choosing our preschool for you and your family.

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 children 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 very much 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 Wednesday, 10 May 2017, at 8.00pm. Please speak to Mellonie (manager), Rachel or Ciaran (parents) if you would like to find out more about getting involved.

Tim Rattay (Chair)

littlejohnscommittee@gmail.com

Website www.littlejohnspreschool.co.uk

We have a new website curtesy of Ciaran Davison, please take a few minutes to have a look, I'm sure you will agree it looks great. All of our information including term dates and closures will be posted on there.

Finances

Little Johns Preschool is registered with Leicester City Council as a validated provider for 2, 3 and 4 year old 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.

Collection times

Please be aware that our collection times are 12.00 noon for children attending mornings only and 3.00 pm for children attending the afternoon sessions. It is important that you collect your child on time as delays cause them to get upset when they see their friends leaving. Little Johns Preschool reserves the right to charge for late collections.

Last term

It is with regret that Coach Michael decided to terminate his weekly Zheebz classes but work and family commitments have meant that he has had to reduce Zheebz classes to weekends only. If you are interested in attending any of his sessions, please visit his FaceBook page for more information. We are looking at starting up a new activity group with children and will be trialling several options this term. The children will all get a voice in what activity we decide to choose.

Just before Easter the local constabulary came to visit the children bringing with them some police hats and coats to try on. The children had a great time and it prompted lots of discussions around keeping themselves safe. This term we are hoping to get confirmation on other visitors coming to the preschool. If you feel that you can contribute to the children's learning by visiting and talking with the children please speak to Mellonie.

To help celebrate Easter the children were visited by Sharon from the church who told the Easter story with lots of dancing and singing. We also had an Easter bonnet competition judged by Kate from the church. The children were very proud to show off their hats to the church staff as they paraded around the room to music. Ayman and Lana were our winners and took home a cuddly bunny and a book each.

Regrettably last term a few children decided to break a lot of our toys and books resulting in many items having to be thrown away. While we expect to get a certain level of breakages some children were deliberately destroying and/or encouraging other children to destroy the toys and books. Please help us to avoid this in the future by working with us and teaching the children to respect items and property.

Primary school transitions

The summer term is always very busy with children getting ready to move to school, this year Rabia will be co-ordinating the school transitions. She has a time table planned of different activities to help the children prepare for September and information sheets for parents. Building on the success of last year's school transition afternoon when parents, children and school teachers all came to Little Johns, Rabia will be organising a meeting again this term and inviting teachers from Avenue and St Johns Primary schools. We hope that all of the parents and children moving to school in September can attend.

The new term

Vijya is in the process of organising our annual trip, the proposed date is Thursday 6th July and further details will be available when confirmed. We have our end of term party planned for the last day of term; as usual we are hiring lots of soft play equipment for the children from Jack in the Box Hire.

Parent consultations will happen later in this term, giving parents time to have a chat with their child's Key Worker and discuss how they are settling in, their development within the preschool etc. However please feel free to talk to any member of staff if you have any concerns or wish to have a chat about your child.

Staffing

After her recent illness Shan has decided not to return to Little Johns but to concentrate on her health and family. We wish her every success in whatever she decides to do next. Due to the increase in numbers this term we will have Vijya and Julekha working most sessions as well as Rebecca our very competent apprentice. This term is also the time that schools look for work placements for their students and we have the privilege of having two different students coming to work with the children from Leicester schools.

Weather

It is a requirement of the Early Years curriculum that children access the outside environment regardless of the weather so can we remind parents to ensure that children are appropriately dressed when attending preschool. Please send a change of clothes too as sometimes accidents happen when children are absorbed in their play, and the Preschool has a very limited supply of donated clothes.

September 2017

From September 2017, working families may be eligible to receive the new extended free childcare entitlement. Eligible families can get an additional 15 hours per week of free childcare for 38 weeks a year. This is in addition to the 15 hours per week of free early education that all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to. For more information and to check your eligibility please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk . Little Johns Preschool intends to be as flexible as possible in offering the free funded sessions and accommodating families sharing their finding between 2 providers.

The Government have also set up a Tax Free Childcare Payment scheme. At the moment we are having some difficulties signing up for the scheme however the issues should be resolved by September. Please visit the above website to check your eligibility and set up your Tax Free Childcare account.

Looking forward to a busy and engaging term,

The Staff and Committee of Little Johns Preschool

Just a quick reminder of the term dates:

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|---------------------------|--|
| Bank holiday | Monday 1 st May 2017 |
| Half term holiday closure | Monday 29 th May – Thursday 1 st June 2017 |
| End of summer term | Thursday 13 th July 2017 |
| Preschool reopens | Monday 4 th September 2017 |