

News Letter Spring Term 2018



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. We are asking for parents to join our committee to keep the preschool running, we only meet 3 times a year for approximately 2 ½ hours so it doesn't take a huge amount of time but is truly appreciated by the staff. Please speak to Mellonie (manager), Rachel or Ciaran (parents) if you would like to find out more about getting involved.

Email littlejohnscommittee@gmail.com

Website www.littlejohnspreschool.co.uk

Activities

We are continuing with our yoga sessions, the children enjoy them so much; please remember to ask them what the 'pose of the week' is when you collect them on Wednesdays.

Rabia is again running her Big Cook Little Cook sessions with parents and children, starting Wednesday 31st January. Don't worry if you haven't managed to secure a place this term, she will be running them again in the summer. The idea is to keep changing the days so that all of our parents can access the course with their child.

The staff are now very familiar with the Oral Health program currently being supported by Leicester City Council and so we have now moved to cleaning teeth every day. Some days we clean in the morning after snack and on other days we clean in the afternoon after lunch. This is to ensure all children get the opportunity to clean their teeth in preschool. Please be aware that this is NOT a replacement for you cleaning your child's teeth at home, it is in addition to you supervising cleaning with your child in the morning and before they go to bed at night. If you wish for any further information about oral health please speak to Rebecca.

Opening times

We are open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 12.00 noon, 12.00 noon -3.00 pm or 9.00 am – 3.00 pm for the whole day. We try to keep our opening times in line with the local Primary Schools as we are very aware of how parents fit their childcare around their older children's schooling. However due to the way the Government fund Early Years Childcare we have to return two days early after the Easter holiday. Therefore our Easter holiday will be Monday 26th March to Wednesday 4th April. Preschool will reopen on Thursday 5th April 2018.

If you believe you may be entitled to the extended 30 hours government funded places for children aged 3 & 4 years old please apply online at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk If you require help completing the online form please speak to Mellonie and she can arrange a convenient time to sit down and go through it with you.

Primary school transitions

In light of the current Government initiatives and our continuing success with local schools, we have decided to separate the older children who will leave us for school in the summer, into a different class so that they can benefit from being in a smaller group and having continued access to our school readiness resources. This new Foundation Stage 1 (FS1) Unit is being run by Rabia with another member of staff in a supporting role.

Staffing

We would like to congratulate Rebecca on completing her Level 3 Apprenticeship. She is now a fully qualified member of staff and will take over from Vijya as a permanent full-time employee while Vijya takes a long trip to India visiting relatives. Nadiya is our new apprentice; she has been introduced to parents over the last couple of weeks, apologies if we missed anyone. The children and staff are very fond of her and we hope that she will stay with us for 2+ years as she completes her Level 2 and then Level 3 Childcare qualification. We have had a student from Leicester City College approach us to do a work placement every Wednesday until the summer holidays. Sofia (or Sophie) is very keen to learn and she is proving to be an asset to our preschool. The children particularly enjoy playing outside games with her.

We are currently looking to recruit a new member of staff to work with the FS1 unit; however they need to be a special practitioner with good qualifications and an excellent code of practice to meet our high standards.

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 universal 15 hours free funded places to children and the additional 15 hours (total 30 hours a week) to children able to access 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. Late noon time collections disrupt the remaining children as they cannot get ready for lunch and staff cannot take their lunch break, also staff are required to clean the church rooms before leaving at the end of the day ready for the next users, late collections at 3.00pm prevent staff from completing the cleaning before the next users arrive. Little Johns Preschool reserves the right to charge £5.00 for every 5 minutes that children are late being collected.

Parent Consultations

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. During this time staff will discuss with you the new on-line learning journals that we have been trialling. They are a vast improvement on the old scrap book style, enabling parents to view instantly the activities their children have been engaging in, and allowing parents to add their own observations too.

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.

Looking forward to a busy and engaging term,

The Staff and Committee of Little John's Preschool

Just a quick reminder of the term dates:

Half term holiday Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2018

Easter Holidays Monday 26th March – Wednesday 4th April 2018

We return after Easter holidays earlier than the schools on Thursday 5th April 2018

Closed for Bank Holiday Monday 7th May

Half term holiday Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June 2018

Our last day before the summer holiday is Friday 13th July