

# January 2017

Happy New Year! Welcome back, and a warm welcome to our new children and families. We had a busy but lovely end to the year last term, and we hope you liked the surprises your children brought home in their Christmas folders; they worked very hard making them. We would like to say thank to you all for your kind wishes, cards and presents and hope you all had a lovely Christmas, and are ready for whatever the New Year brings.

## School Admissions 2017

If your child will be 4 by 31<sup>st</sup> August you should apply for a school place by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2017**. You can apply online: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions) or you can contact the admissions team (0345 0451370) for more information, but please speak to me if you need any help.

## Spanishtastic

Our weekly Spanish sessions continue to be popular. Clare, who runs the half hour session at 11.30am every Wednesday morning, has some spaces left so please let me know if you would like your child to join in. The sessions are £3 per week and bookings are half termly, although you are welcome to join part way through and pay for the remaining sessions. Your child does not have to attend on a Wednesday to join in; Clare is happy for you come along and join in the group with your child.

## Fees

The invoices were handed out before Christmas and payment is due by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January**. Fees not paid on time will incur a late payment charge of £20, unless special arrangements have been made with me, so please talk to me if you have any worries.

The nursery bank details for those who wish to pay online are:

Bank	HSBC
Sort Code	40 16 59
Account Number	60037524

Please remember to send an email notification to our Business Manager, at [janemarshall@littlehands.co.uk](mailto:janemarshall@littlehands.co.uk) and enter your child's name and 'Bourn' as a reference to ensure that your payment is allocated correctly. This is to avoid any confusion with payments meant for other families with the same surname at one of the other Little Hands nurseries.

## Email Mailing List

I am starting an email mailing list for those of you who would prefer to receive future newsletters and notifications by email. Please email me at [lh.bourn@gmail.com](mailto:lh.bourn@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to this list. Your email address will not be shared with anyone else and all emails to you will be sent as a blind copy (bcc) in accordance with data protection regulations.

## Activities

Our activities are based on the children's interests so please let us know of anything that we can incorporate into our planning. We are really lucky to have had some wonderful activities run by parents and grandparents - take a look through the blue folder on the front table to

see photos of previous activities and let us know if you would like to share your skills and interests with us. We would also love to know of any festivals or celebrations that your family participates in so we can mark these, using your knowledge and experiences. In addition, we welcome all parents and family members to join us for story-time at the end of each day; the door opens at 3.50pm for those who would like to join us. Please try to be on time as latecomers can disrupt the story and the children's concentration.

## Planning for this Half Term:

### Staying Safe: Friends

#### Week 1

Thurs 5<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Favourite Stories** - we will be reading and acting out our favourite stories, using our story sacks, story stones and puppets; if we do not have your child's favourite book please encourage him/her to bring it in but **please make sure their name is clearly marked in the book**. We will also be reading some dual language books to the children so that they can hear their favourite stories in other languages. If you would like to read us a story, please let us know - we would love to have you!

#### Week

16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Space Week** - we will be making rockets, space ships, star and planets out of all sorts of materials so look out for our amazing creations! We will be using the black-out tent with torches to role play being in space or on the moon - there will be lots of tin foil used because our sources tell us it is very shiny up there! Erika will be bringing in a model of the solar system for the older children to look at and learn about in focus play. If you have any resources or knowledge you would like to share with us on this topic, please do - better still come in and help if you can.

#### Week 3

23<sup>rd</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Staying Safe - Friends** -this week we will be working with recommendations from the Staying Safe Matters framework which helps children to develop awareness of others, being kind to each other, sharing, taking turns and how to deal with friendship issues when things go wrong. We will be using fun games and activities to encourage children to use friendly behaviour towards each other, drawing pictures of our friends and making friendship chains. It is important for children to know that they do not have to be 'friends' with everyone but they should be kind to others; if others are unkind to them we want them to develop the skills and confidence to deal with the situation both practically and emotionally.

#### Week 4

30<sup>th</sup>Jan-3<sup>rd</sup> Feb

**Chinese New Year (Year of the Rooster) 28<sup>th</sup> Jan** - We will be making a dragon out of cardboard boxes and big pieces of material to dance our version of the traditional Dragon Dance. We will be making & decorating lanterns, which are traditionally used at the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations. Shuk-Yee (Alex's mummy) has kindly made us some little posters of Chinese words which relate to the New Year celebrations which the children can look at to see the different writing in print, and we will also be learning numbers (up to 10).

Week 5

6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Cooking Week** - We will making cakes, biscuits and savoury dishes - some may it home and some may not (sorry, no promises!) but be assured that the children will be busy learning to prepare, measure and mix, and of course eat! Parents, grandparents and family members are welcome to come in and help so if this is a topic that interests you please let us know.

## Term Dates 2016-2017

**Spring Term 2017**

11 weeks 2 days

Thursday 5th January – 10th February

5 weeks 2 days

*13th – 17th February Half Term Holiday Club*

20th February – 31st March

6 weeks

*Easter Holiday Club (open: 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th April and 10th 11th 12th 13th April)*

***Easter Bank Holidays 14th and 17th April – Holiday Club Closed***

**Summer Term 2017**

12 weeks 3 days

Tuesday 18th April - 26th May  
(1st May bank holiday - closed)

5 weeks 3 days

*29th May - 2nd June Half Term Holiday Club*

5th June - 21st July

7 weeks

***Summer Holiday Club starts 24th July – further dates to be confirmed***