



October 2019 Newsletter  
Welcome back after the half term holiday

### Staffing

We have two new members of staff that started midway through last half term Danielle Fitzsimmons (Dee) – who has been named by a child as ‘Danny Dee’ and Amy Loveridge – as described by another child ‘The new Amy’ with our existing Amy being known as ‘The real Amy’. It is just lovely to see how children perceive/describe things. We would like to welcome both ladies to Little Hands and joining the staff team.

### Parents Evening

Historically we have not held official parents evening for about three years. Our reasoning was that very few parents attended. Parents felt the conversing that occurred daily was sufficient. I would like to ask for feedback to me or Caroline as to whether you would like an official parents evening where timed appointments are available or a convenient time to see your child’s key worker at drop off or pick up times.

I will be looking at dates in mid-November once a decision has been as to which of the above suggestions is determined. Please remember if you have any questions, concerns or would like to discuss anything regarding your child you can telephone, email, or ask to see us at any time.

### Theme

This half term we will think about Autumn and the changes occurring. Your child will be or has brought a bag home so that you can go for a walk and collect Autumn objects. Please could you return the collection so that we can use with your child at nursery. We will discuss animals that hibernate and animals storing food for Winter. The last two weeks of term the festive fun will be upon us.



Our Staying Safe theme this half term is about being lost - how we would feel, what we should do and how not to get lost. We will approach this topic through stories:

Week 1/2 - Small Bear Lost and Dogger

Week 3/4 - Elmer and the Lost Teddy and The Cat Who Lost His Purr

Week 5/6 - Alone in the Woods and Little Baa.



**End of Autumn term:** Friday 20th December

**Spring Term start:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January



## Children's Admission Details

Please give Mandy any updates to your child's details, particularly health details and contact number details if they have changed since you completed your child's admission form.

## Clothing

In the colder weather please send your child in with appropriate coat, hat, scarf, gloves and wellies with them **all named**, thank you.

## Lunch boxes

**Please**, label lunch boxes on their **outside** and **drink bottles** to make it easier for staff to identify them. If you are putting a new food in the lunch box for your child to try, then please let staff know. We always assume that whatever is in their lunch box they will eat and consequently encourage them to do so. Children have a strong perception of fairness. We do not like to excuse some children from eating some foods while asking others to do so.

Please can we remind/ask you that all grapes, olives, cherry tomatoes, blueberries (foods certainly that are oval) are cut in half length ways to avoid choking.

**Christmas Parties** Due to the number of children we have and safety we will split the under two's and over two's parties.

**Over two's party** will be Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
11am – 1pm

**Under two's party** will be Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
11am – 1pm

Please fill in the attached reply slip and return by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. There will be the usual fee of £13.20 if your child is not in nursery on those dates/times or £6.60 if your child does not stay over the lunch hour. All children are welcome and parents do not need to stay or provide anything and we hope a certain person will visit.



## Illness

Hopefully many of the coughs, colds and sickness have gone over the half term period. Please can I remind parents that your child **should not** be attending nursery if you have had to give them Calpol or other fever reducing medicine. They will not be well enough to cope with a session. Likewise, if your child has vomiting and/or diarrhoea please do not bring them into nursery for at least 48hrs after the last episode.

## Photographs

Once I have confirmed a date with Andrew Martin, I will send a group email to advise the date and ensure with him that photographs will be back in time for Christmas.



## Christmas holiday club

I am attaching the Christmas holiday club booking form. Please could it be returned **by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**. This will allow for staffing to be organised. Please be aware that once staffing is set for holiday clubs it is not always easy to put children in should forms be sent after the given return date.

## Guinea pigs

Smudge and Treacle are settling well into their new environment. The children are beginning to handle them. Once we feel they are ready for 'weekends away/short periods' we will let you know.

## 30-hour funding codes

Please can I remind parents/carers that have qualified for the 30-hour funding that you need to do an eligibility check every 3 months with HMRC from when you were first given the code. HMRC should send you a reminder by email. Also, a reminder if you will be claiming Early Years Funding and you think you might be eligible for the 30 hours extended entitlement then please make sure that you get your code before 31/12/2019 to start January 2020, if you don't it is unlikely that you will not be able to claim until April 2020. There are strict cut off dates which have been issued by the local government.



## Contact details:

The email address to contact the nursery on is:

[lh-bartlow@btconnect.com](mailto:lh-bartlow@btconnect.com)

Telephone: 01223 897945

Address:

Unit 5, Three Hills Farm  
Bartlow  
Cambs  
CB21 4EN

Please note at busy times emails are not always checked regularly so if your query is urgent please telephone.

**Mandy, Caroline, Linda, 'Real' Amy, Lee, Shaunie, 'Danny Dee', 'New' Amy**



## Christmas Party reply slip - Return by Friday 8th November

Childs name:..... will / will not \* attend the Christmas Party on:

- **Over two's party** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 11am – 1pm \*
- **Under two's party** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 11am – 1pm \*

Please enclose the fee of £13.20/£6.60 with the reply slip (cheques payable to Little Hands or pay directly into bank account).

(\* Please delete as appropriate)

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### Holiday club:

Dear Parents/Carers, please could you indicate the hours you require (bookings made on the hour please) on the corresponding days e.g. 8am – 6pm, 9am – 3pm etc. A hot meal is served at 4.15pm. Thank you.

Day/Date	Times required
Monday 23rd December 2019	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2020	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	

Child(ren) Name(s):.....

Please could forms be returned by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November** so that staffing can be organised. If you require a paper copy please ask. If returning by email please send to [lh-bartlow@btconnect.com](mailto:lh-bartlow@btconnect.com)