

January 2019

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.

Staff News

I am delighted to welcome Shanice Cooper to our team. Shanice is no stranger to us because she did her work experience here when she was at college and has worked in our Holiday Clubs.

School Admissions 2019

If your child will be 4 by 31st August you should apply for a school place by **15th January 2019**. You can apply online: 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.

Spanish Sessions

We have been lucky to have Spanish sessions available to us from Kidslingo for a few years now; Clare Potosi who started the sessions here with us has now left but she has introduced Laura Garcia to us, who will be taking over from January 2019. If you would like your child to learn Spanish, the 30-minute sessions run every Wednesday from 11.20am-11.50am and cost £3 each week. If you are interested, please let me know and I can arrange for your child to have a trial session with Laura to see if they enjoy it. If your child attends nursery on a Wednesday a member of staff will accompany them into the session; if your child does not attend on Wednesdays, you are still welcome to join in as long as you can stay with your child for the session.

Holiday Club for February Half Term

I am already taking bookings for the February half term Holiday Club. If you would like to book your child(ren) in please complete a booking form. I can either send you an electronic one if you send me an email to request one, or you can collect one from the front table. The deadline for bookings is **Friday 11th January 2018** - I can still take bookings after this date, but the staffing will already have been set and it will therefore depend entirely on availability of spaces, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Environmental Policy

Little Hands is putting together an Environmental Policy with emphasis on Reducing, Reusing, Recycling but also Respecting our planet. This will be focusing on our practices as a nursery and workplace and on how we will be including this in our curriculum through teaching the children about the environment and how to look after and protect it. The policy will soon be

ready for everyone to read but it is a working document so please do let me know if you would like us to add or consider anything that you feel is missing.

Activities

As part of our 'In the Moment Planning' it is useful to know your children's interests so please let us know of anything that your child particularly enjoys so that we can be prepared, especially as they develop new interests. In addition, if any of you would like to come in to play and share your skills and interests with us, we would love to have you! 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.

Themes for this Half Term:

This half term we will be joining in with the UK Safer Internet Day which is on 5th February; we will of course be making sure all activities are aimed at the children's age appropriate levels but thought it would be good for parents to be aware of this so that you can access the advice and activities to support all the children in you families. Please visit: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2019> for more information.

We are also going to celebrate World Book Day on 7th March so start talking to your children about their favourite books and look out for posters and emails about what we will be doing!

Remaining Term Dates 2018-2019

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|---|----------------|---------------|
| Spring Term 2019 | 11 weeks | 11 weeks |
| Monday 7th January – 15th February | 6 weeks | |
| <i>18th – 22nd February Half Term Holiday club</i> | | |
| Monday 25th February – 29th March | 5 weeks | |
| Summer Term 2019 | 13 weeks | 13 weeks |
| Monday 1st - 5th April | 1 week | |
| <i>Easter holiday club 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 15th 16th 17th 18th April</i> | | <i>9 days</i> |
| <i>Easter bank holidays 19th and 22nd April</i> | | |
| Tuesday 23rd April - 24th May | 4 weeks 3 days | |
| <i>(6th May bank holiday - closed)</i> | | |
| 27th - 31st May | half term | holiday club |
| 3rd June - Tuesday 23rd July | 7 weeks 2 days | |
| <i>Summer Holiday Club Wednesday 24th July to either Thursday 5th or Monday 9th September</i> | | |