

Newsletter January 2017.

Welcome back after Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

The staff would like to thank you all very much for the lovely cards and presents that were given to them at Christmas –THANK YOU.

Themes.

The theme for the first two weeks is Winter and week five will be Chinese New Year.

The themes for the other weeks will be based on the children's interests which will be decided during the half term. We will notify you of the themes on the parent's notice board in the entrance hall.

As always we base our planning on the children's interests. If your child has any particular interest that you think we can introduce into the nursery sessions, please let us know so we can incorporate them into the planning. Please let us know of any festivals or celebrations that your family participates in as we would like to mark these within our planning as authentically as possible using your own knowledge and experiences.

Week 1 Winter

Learning Intention: Personal, Social and Emotional

Week 2 Winter

Learning Intention: Personal, Social and Emotional

Week 3 Children's Interest

Learning Intention: Communication and Language

Week 4 Children's Interest

Learning Intention: Physical

Week 5 Chinese New Year

Learning Intention: Understanding the World

Week 6 Children's Interest

Learning Intention: Mathematics

Please remember that we like to provide a wide range of "messy" activities for the children so please dress your child in suitable clothing.

TERM DATES:

Spring Term:

Term begins on Thursday 5th January 2017 to Friday 10th February.

Half term holiday club is for one week beginning 13th February.

Second half of the Spring term begins on Monday 20th February to Friday 31st March.

We will then open for the Easter holiday club.

Summer Term:

Term begins on Tuesday 18th April to Friday 26th May.

Nursery will be closed on May Day 1st May.

Half term holiday club is for one week beginning 29th May.

Second half of the Summer term begins Monday 5th June to Friday 21st July.

We will then open for the Summer holiday club.

PAYMENT OF FEES

Little Hands preferred payment methods are direct bank payments or Childcare vouchers. Payments should be made within 2 weeks of the invoice date or a late pay fee of £20 will be added. Alternative payment arrangements (cheque or cash) or timings may be possible please speak to the nursery manager in advance

Direct Bank Payments

Fees can be paid directly into the nursery bank account either at a bank/post office or via Internet banking. The nursery bank details are:

Bank:	HSBC
Sort Code:	401659
Account Number:	60037524

The payment should be referenced with your child's name and written notification emailed to janemarshall@littlehands.co.uk stating your child's name, payment amount and date payment has been made; this is essential to prevent payments being mistakenly attributed to the wrong family. If email is not an option the written notification can be given as a note/letter to the nursery manager.

Childcare Vouchers

Working parents can choose to pay using Childcare Vouchers if their employer is part of a voucher scheme. Voucher payments are popular as they are exempt of tax & national insurance deductions. The voucher company should be instructed to notify the nursery by e-mail when the payment is due so that individual payments can be correctly tracked.

Cheque payments

Cheques should be made payable to Little Hands Nursery.

Cheques are banked in the week following the payment period (two weeks after the invoice date.) Please note that cheque payments made outside the payment period may be not be banked until the following half term. Nursery will pass all bank charges incurred from un-cleared cheques to the parents.

E-mail address

Our e-mail address is lh-newton@btconnect.com if you would like to contact us in this way. Please note that the emails are not always checked if we are busy so if your query is urgent then please phone us instead.

Absences

Please let us know verbally, by phone or by email if your child is not going to be attending nursery if they are unwell, on holiday etc. We are required by Early Years to monitor children's absences from nursery.

Lunches

Please cut up items, such as cherry tomatoes, grapes, olives etc. in half-length ways to make them easier to eat for the children and to reduce the risk of choking. We will cut up any food items which we feel may be a choking hazard.

Please ensure that your child's lunch box and drinks container are named. As we have a number of children with allergies we request that nut products are not included in lunch boxes.

Due to food hygiene regulations we are not able to heat children's lunches in the microwave.

Entrance Hall

Please remember that the entrance hall is a common area which is used by other users of the hall.

Children should be supervised at all times and must not be allowed into the adjacent corridor, or to play on the glass door into the hall. Noise level should be kept to a minimum and other people need to be able to pass safely through at all times.

Bad Weather

Please remember that we like to go outside to play each day so please ensure that your child has suitable named clothing and footwear every day. Please bring a change of clothes for your child in case of accidents or if your child gets wet or dirty clothes during an activity. These can be left in a bag on their peg.

If you have any of our nursery clothes at home please return them to us as soon as possible as our supplies are running low!

Snow

There are circumstances which occur rarely, such as severe weather conditions, which may require the nursery day to be reconsidered or cancelled. It is possible that we cannot predict when these circumstances may occur. In cases of severe weather conditions it may not be possible for the staff to travel safely to the nursery. It may be advisable to ring the nursery to check that we are open before setting off from your homes. "Little Hands" will endeavour to provide an uninterrupted service to families whenever possible.

Children In Need

Thank you to everyone who supported our fund raising efforts for Children In Need. We raised £36.82 by dressing up and selling cakes and biscuits.

Thoughts and Reflections Box

Just to remind you of our thoughts and reflections box that is in the entrance hall. It is there for you to put in any concerns, thoughts or wishes you may have for the nursery and do not wish to discuss with the staff.

Sharing Skills

We would like to invite any parent, carer or relative to join us at nursery to share any particular skill you may have with the children. In the past we have had a mother who talked to the children about her new baby, a father who plays the saxophone, a mother who was a fitness instructor, a mother who sang Spanish nursery rhymes and a father who is a dentist. They came in and talked to the children for a few minutes which all the children thoroughly enjoyed. Parents have also come in to share festivals and celebrations that their families participate in. If you would like to come into the nursery please speak to Sheila or Lisa to arrange a date and time.

Easter Holiday Club

The Easter holiday club will run for nine full days from 8.30-4.30pm. As usual, all siblings over 2 years and under 8 years of age are welcome to join us during the holiday club.

During holiday club we plan sessions using the Early Years Foundation Stage as guidance. We have flexible planning so that we can plan and work with the children's current interests. If you have any ideas which we could use then please let us know.

The fees must be paid by Friday 31st March otherwise a late pay penalty of £20.00 will be added. The fees are £6.40 per hour. Once the sessions have been confirmed they cannot be cancelled or reduced and the fees are payable in full. It will be at the manager's discretion to decide whether the sessions booked are viable. If you have any problems or if you require any information about holiday club please see Sheila or Lisa. A booking form is at the bottom of this newsletter to be completed and returned as soon as possible as we cannot guarantee places will be available if the form is returned after Friday 24th February

**Booking form for Easter 2017- holiday club.
I would like to book the following sessions:**

Child's name.....

Monday 3rd April: 8.30-9.00am 9-10am 10-12am 12-1pm 1-3pm 3-4pm 4-4.30pm

Tuesday 4th April: 8.30-9.00am 9-10am 10-12am 12-1pm 1-3pm 3-4pm 4-4.30pm

Wednesday 5th April: 8.30-9.00am 9-10am 10-12am 12-1pm 1-3pm 3-4pm 4-4.30pm

Thursday 6th April: 8.30-9.00am 9-10am 10-12am 12-1pm 1-3pm 3-4pm 4-4.30pm

Friday 7th April: 8.30-9.00am 9-10am 10-12am 12-1pm 1-3pm 3-4pm 4-4.30pm

Monday 10th April: 8.30-9.00am 9-10am 10-12am 12-1pm 1-3pm 3-4pm 4-4.30pm

Tuesday 11th April: 8.30-9.00am 9-10am 10-12am 12-1pm 1-3pm 3-4pm 4-4.30pm

Wednesday 12th April: 8.30-9.00am 9-10am 10-12am 12-1pm 1-3pm 3-4pm 4-4.30pm

Thursday 13th April: 8.30-9.00am 9-10am 10-12am 12-1pm 1-3pm 3-4pm 4-4.30pm

Friday 14th April: Bank Holiday - Closed

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