



PARENT NEWSLETTER – September 2018

Welcome to the latest Henley newsletter.

I hope you have all had a lovely summer – hopefully this nice weather will remain for a little longer before winter will set in.

We said goodbye over the summer to a number of children who have moved on to 'big school'. As some have siblings with us, it has been lovely to see them in their school uniform, looking so grown up!

I am pleased to confirm that our Spanish classes with Lingotot will be starting again on 12th September. All children attending pre-school on Wednesday mornings will automatically take part in the classes and so if for any reason you do not want your child to take part, please let me know.

Each of the rooms have been making 'All about me' books for the children. These are a lovely resource which provides the opportunity for each child to have something from home at nursery which they can look through and talk about to their key carer and/or their friends, developing both language and social skills. If you haven't yet let us have some photos of family members, pets etc, could you either bring some in or e-mail them to me please?

I should like to ask everyone to please use the parent parking spaces whenever possible and particularly to avoid parking in the middle of the car park as this can make it difficult to manoeuvre cars around at busy times. Please note that these spaces are for dropping off and collecting only. Please also take extreme care when driving into and out of the car park and remember to be considerate to drivers wanting to turn in from the Fairmile by reversing back down the drive when needed.

Could I also please remind everyone that the code to our front gate should only be shared with parents and those family members who collect children on a regular basis. It is very important, therefore, that you do not let anyone into the nursery unless you know that they are the parent of a child who is attending. Even if it is someone you recognise, such as the yoga teacher or a Tesco delivery driver, please do not let them in, but ask them to ring the bell, as visitors must be accompanied by a member of staff when on the premises.

I know that a number of our team babysit for children who attend the nursery and as such parents will have the staff members' phone numbers, which is absolutely fine. However, please do not use these numbers for matters relating to your child's attendance at the nursery, instead direct all such messages to the nursery either by phone or e-mail.

We will be supporting 'Jeans for Genes' day on Friday, 21st September, to raise money for Genetic Disorders UK, the national charity that supports individuals and families affected by a genetic disorder. All staff and children are invited to wear jeans to nursery on this day, and we ask that a donation is made to this worthwhile cause.

We will be having apples dipped in honey (not under 1's) in celebration of Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), making moon cakes or biscuits for the Chinese Festival of the Autumn Moon and planning lots of fun activities for Halloween.

Many thanks
Julie

Note from the rooms:

Caterpillars

We have lots of exciting things planned! Each week we will provide the children with activities focused on a different schema, which are patterns of repeated behaviour which allow children to explore and express developing ideas and thoughts through their play. For example, exploring trajectory schema will mean lots of play with cars and balls, and connecting schema will mean lots of opportunities to build with different things such as wooden bricks or Duplo pieces. These opportunities allow babies and children to problem solve, question, predict, imagine, speculate and develop independent choices as they make decisions in an area they are familiar with.

As always, the children will also have specific activities planned that are tailored to their own learning needs and interests. We are always more than happy to show you our planning for the week's activities and answer any questions.

We love getting messy in Caterpillars and we will continue to have lots of different sensory play opportunities throughout each week. Play like this helps us to build our nerve connections in the brain and encourages the development of motor skills. So far, we have already played with foam, sand, herbs, water and lots more besides!

Weekly cooking activities will continue, with all children being given an opportunity each term to take part. We will be developing our muscles as we stir, squash and roll out our different ingredients. We will also be helping to plant new herbs in the garden, which we can hopefully use in our cooking activities later on.

We will be joining in with some of the activities focused on celebrations, including Rosh Hashanah. Our older children will be offered apples and honey to try and those under one year old can dip their apples in fruit puree so they don't miss out! We will also be celebrating by using apples to print shapes onto paper.

Becks and the Caterpillars team

Butterflies

Over the summer we have loved receiving our postcards from lots of different places people have been visiting. We have enjoyed looking at our map to see where they have come from.

We have welcomed a lot of new children into Butterflies recently and so will be spending time getting to know each other through activities which will encourage social skills. We will also be spending more time in our key groups to help develop bonds with key carers.

We look forward to celebrating the Chinese Festival of the Autumn Moon, where we will be using our measuring and mixing skills to make moon biscuits.

We will also be making plans for our Halloween activities, which will be as messy and gooey as possible!

Ali and the Butterflies team

Pre-school

We have had a very exciting, fun summer exploring science! We have made fizzy playdough, dyed flowers different colours, watched raisins dance and we are planning to make our own erupting volcano!

In the Autumn term we are going to be creating our own 'Little Chef's Cookbook'. This will be developed through the Children's Council when the children will be asked what they would like to cook during our weekly cooking activities.

Mollie and the pre-school team

Finally, for those children who attend on a term time only basis, the full year's term dates are below for your information.

Term dates 2018/2019

Term – Wednesday, 5th September – Friday, 19th October
Holiday – Monday, 22nd October – Friday 26th October
Term – Monday, 29th October – Friday 21st December
Holiday – Monday, 24th December – Friday, 4th January
Term – Monday, 7th January – Friday, 15th February
Holiday – Monday, 18th February – Friday, 22nd February
Term – Monday, 25th February – Friday, 5th April
Holiday – Monday, 8th April – Tuesday, 23rd April
Term – Wednesday, 24th April – Friday, 24th May
Bank Holiday – Monday, 6th May
Holiday – Monday, 27th May – Friday, 31st May
Term – Monday, 3rd June – Friday, 19th July