

Old Court News



Dates for the diary

Tuesday 21st July: Last day of regular sessions for Busy Bears

TD days: Wednesday 22nd July

Summer holidays start:
Thursday 23rd July

September term starts:
Wednesday 2nd September

Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Committee Member Sammy on the birth of baby Jacob



Re-Opening of Pre School for Busy Bears

With the Government announcement that school settings should open for Early Years, Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 6 pupils from 1st June, we have decided to open the preschool for our Busy Bears only and a number of our children have decided to return. In order to ensure the setting can meet the requirements set out by the Government, we will be making some changes as follows:

Small Groups: The children will be playing in small groups with a staff member to supervise them with minimal contact with other staff and children within the setting to help avoid the possible spread of the virus should anyone become infected.

Shorter Days and Staggered Start/Finish Times: The groups of children will have staggered start and finish time to reduce the interaction with other children/parents and the deep cleaned.

Drop off/Pick Up: We are requesting that one parent accompanies their child to drop them off and collect them at the setting at the gate to minimise congestion. Parents have been asked to adhere to the social distancing we have all become so used to currently. The staff member will sign the child in and out and once the children in their group are all ready they will take the children inside so the next group can arrive safely. They will wash their hands on entering the building and throughout the session.

Interaction with Children: We have asked parents to encourage children to be as independent as possible, and dress them in clothes that encourage this to help to minimise close contact. We will comfort children appropriately if they need it and will try to ensure that they are not affected by the control measures being put in place. There will be considerable changes within the setting as the children will not have access to the unlimited amount of equipment they previously had. We will endeavour to provide a stimulating variety of activities to encourage the children's learning through play. Children will have access to items such as pencils and craft activities but it will be in their tray specific for them to use when they want to draw etc.

September Re-Opening: At present, we do not know what the September re-opening will look like but we are aiming to re-open on Wednesday 2nd September. We will work with Wiltshire Council to ensure we meet all the guidelines issued by the Government. For Children due to start in Teddy Tots/Busy Bears or change rooms in September, we will be contacting parents over the summer term and will work on the understanding that all groups will be back at this time. We will also take learning from the summer term to understand what has worked well and what we can improve on.

In the meantime, we would like to thank all parents/carers for their support in this difficult time and we are looking forward to seeing you all again.

Child Absence

If your child is currently attending pre-school and are unable to attend for any reason, please can you ensure you let the setting know in advance or on the day itself please? This ensures the staff know which children to expect at the gate and aren't keeping the rest of the children waiting to go into the classroom.

Suitable Clothing for the Summer Term

As we enter the summer months, please can we remind all parents to ensure children have a named sun hat and sun cream for Pre-School. Ideally if you can apply one of the 8 hour sun creams to your child in the morning or ensure your child can apply the sun cream themselves, as the staff are unable to apply this for the children.



While it is warm outside, we are keeping the doors and windows open where we can to ensure good ventilation in the setting. This sometimes means that the room can get cool so please can you also ensure your child has a warm layer with them each day or is left in their change of clothes bag at the setting for them to use.

Lunchboxes

Please can you also ensure that your child's lunchbox contains an ice pack and that you ensure the children can independently open all items in their lunchbox. Also, for this term we have asked all parents to provide a morning snack for their child so please can you ensure that this is clearly labelled



Pre-School Committee

As a charity, our Pre-School can only operate due to the provision of a Committee who help with the running of the setting alongside the staff. A number of our committee members are due to step down in October as their children have or are about to move on to school. As a result, we have some roles that will need to be filled if the committee is to continue and the pre-school remain open. These roles include:

Essential Roles: Chair of Preschool Committee, Secretary, Data Protection Lead, Health and Safety Lead

Other Roles: General administration, including messages on Facebook,

Organising fundraising, including project management, investigating new sources of funding, dealing face to face with organisations or behind the scenes.

If you would be interested in finding out more about this or would like to talk to any of the committee members, please let the office know.

Tapestry Updates

For those children who are not back in the setting with us, we will still be communicating with you through Tapestry and telephone calls to provide ideas of fun things to do with your children and offer any support we can. If you have any concerns or questions that we can help with, please feel free to get in touch with us at any time either via Tapestry or email and please continue to send us updates and photos of what you have been doing.