



NEWSLETTER - September 2019

Business Manager (sessions) -

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Welcome back!

Welcome back everyone and welcome to our new starters this term. I hope you've had a fantastic summer and have made lots of lovely memories with your loved ones. Thank you for all the lovely gifts and cards the staff team received at the end of last term, Thank you also for completing the Survey Monkey questionnaire and all the positive feedback; it is invaluable to us and allows us to continue to reflect on our practice in a positive way.

I've been popping in and out of preschool nursery, with various members of staff and tradespeople, making improvements to our setting over the summer. Stef has been hugely instrumental in developing a fully functional sensory area; Sue has been actively improving our allotment area with a flair for creativity; both Kerry and Stef have helped to organise our resources and Bev has helped to organise some of our paperwork. The biggest improvement by far has been the donation and fitting of a brand new kitchen by Homestyle Kitchens. Many thanks to Alan Coleman and his team for his kind and generous donation, especially as we are a Charity Business. Pictures will be added to our Facebook page when Bev returns to the office.

Daily routine

In order to allow a smooth handover in the morning, and hence keep the fire exit clear, children are to arrive in clean trainers (we no longer have space for the storage of slippers) for our Daily mile. We have placed a temporary barrier on the grass/path edge to prevent trainers from getting muddy on the way in.

Pre-schoolers (those who will be starting school next September) will be encouraged to become more independent e.g. on arrival, they should wipe their trainers well on the mat, place their picture on the rainbow, place their water bottles & lunch bags on the shelf as labelled and hang up their own coats, so that parents can eventually just leave them at the door.

Parents of our younger members can continue to assist their children by their allocated cloak area.

The previous cloakroom area has now been made into a sensory area, so most of the pre-schoolers now have a separate freestanding small cloak area, just for cloaks. We would like to urge pre-schoolers NOT to bring in any bags as there is no space to store them. We have plenty of spare clothes should they be required; any nappies for our younger children & spare clothes for potty-trainers can be brought in at the start of term and we will store them separately in labelled drawers outside the toilet cubicles.

We are due to have a welly stand delivered this week for the outside storage of wellies. We have a large tub bucket full of wellies that were left at the end of last term. Please could you retrieve any that could still be of use as a lot of them are unlabelled. We are constantly encouraging the children to reduce waste so we would be grateful if you could reclaim, re-use or recycle any of the wellies that have been left. Thanks

Please ensure that all coats, trainers, wellies, lunch bags and water bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name to avoid any confusion. Many thanks in advance. For your information, our daily routine is as follows:

8.30-9.00 Focused activities

9.05-9.25 Registration time

9.25-9.45 Snack time (toast, fruit, water & milk)

9.45-10 Daily mile

10-10.45; Outdoor play/Small group activities/

10.50-11 EYFS learning areas

11.45-12 End of morning session reflection/circle time

12-12.45 Lunch; story time/rhyme time/phonics/writing

12.45-1 Afternoon registration

1.00-1.45 Outdoor play/Small group activities/EYFS learning areas

2.00-2.30 Snack time (breadsticks, fruit, water & milk)

2.30-3.00 End of afternoon session reflection/circle time

3.00-5.00 Focused activities



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Health and safety

We are due to have an outdoor handwashing sink to be delivered this week to help maintain high levels of good hygiene.

We are a healthy setting; please be reminded that all packed lunches should be healthy and balanced. If in doubt, please check our Food and Drink Policy on our website.

Also on our website, under the 'Parents' Zone,' you will be able to find the calendar for the new Academic Year 2019-2020. For health and safety reasons, our term dates and holidays are the same as the school's [St. Lewis' Primary].

Learning and development

The children will be participating in activities and following books relating to returning back to school, numbers and transport. This will be tied-in with discussions about their holidays and notable dates such as International Literacy day and Roald Dahl day. Fortnightly learning and development plans are attached to the parent information board for your perusal.

Donations

Outdoor provision We are keen to improve our outdoor facilities, so, if the company you work for (or own) are able to help, or if you know of anyone who could help, we would be grateful of anything that would help improve our outdoor provision. E.g. we are looking to have an overdoor shelter built, some paving slabs fitted and looking for donations of gravel/pebbles to surround our building with. Any wooden outdoor play provision would be gratefully received.

Snacks We will no longer be invoicing for snack fees from September; to make this sustainable, we would be grateful of any donations of snacks from September i.e. bread for toast in the mornings and breadsticks for the afternoons, and fresh fruit for both snack times. Many thanks in advance.

Easyfundraising Croft Early Years is a not-for-profit pre-school and a registered charity. All extra funds we can raise go towards providing a better learning experience for the children. You can help our fund-raising just by doing your online shopping! We have joined easyfundraising.org.uk to help you to help us raise funds every time you buy almost anything online. You don't pay anything extra - the donation comes from the retailer - most of the major shops are there to choose from. Please [sign up today](#) and bookmark the page, so that you always start your shop at easyfundraising.org.uk. Many thanks.

Staffing

I would like to inform you that Sam has become a permanent part of the team, and Kate U. and Lisa have become bank staff. The majority of our Keyworkers' keypeople remain the same as last term; I've updated Tapestry to reflect any changes and will be in contact to confirm these via email.

Session requests for January 2020

I would be grateful if those who have not already informed me of their session requests for children looking to extend their hours in January, email me at their earliest convenience to avoid any disappointment. Thank you.

Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation, Penny