

The Beehive at Lindford – Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

Half Term – Saturday 10th February to Sunday 18th February

Easter Holidays – Friday 30th March (Good Friday) to Sunday 15th April

School admissions confirmation emails – Monday 16th April

May Bank Holiday – Monday 7st May

Half term – Saturday 26th May to Sunday 3rd June

Last Day of Summer term – Wednesday 18th July

Pirates and Mermaids

The children have really enjoyed our theme this month, it has led to some great role play, stories and exploration. We are planning on following the children's interests over the next few weeks into transport, which will include rockets into space and Peppa Pig stories as well as the more obvious buses, cars and trains. All of our planning provides a general theme around which we deliver the Early-years curriculum which means that as the children play we are constantly looking for ways to incorporate elements such as early maths. In addition, we invite the children to join in adult led activities to help children focus and learn specific skills and much of this can be seen on your Tapestry accounts.

Tapestry

Online learning journals – please access this when you can, we welcome your comments and contributions. Let us know if you have any problems viewing Tapestry. We are regularly adding to our tapestry records, but do not always update the records at the time as we like to make detailed notes additionally we experience extremely slow internet access which affects our ability to upload observations.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

This is funding which can be claimed by the Beehive in order to enhance the opportunities available to 3 and 4-year old children who meet certain income criteria. (See 2-year old funding) The uptake for this funding locally is particularly low. Please speak to Jan or Annette in confidence if you think your child may be eligible.

General House Keeping

Spare Clothes - Please remember to provide a complete set of spare clothes (more if potty training)

Outdoor clothes - named wellies, coats and later in the year hats and gloves – presume we will go outside, we always go outside.

Manageable clothes – It's really important to us and the children that they have the potential to be as independent as possible with their dressing/toileting. With this in mind please provide easy to manage clothes. (Things that make us grumble are tight clothing, laces, buckles, buttons on jeans, tights, dungarees etc. etc.)

Old Clothes – Your children will get covered in mud, paint, water, play dough, food and snot, old clothes are best.

Lunch boxes – We understand what it is to be a busy parent but ask that you aim for a healthy lunch box, almost all processed food will contain excess sugar and/or salt and we would recommend avoiding these items or limiting lunches to a single processed product. Definitely no fizzy drinks, chocolate or sweets please, the children will not be allowed to have them until they go home.

Grapes are a dangerous fruit so please remember to slice grapes (and similar fruit) in half.

Allergies – In line with the policies of most schools we are a nut free setting and request no nuts in lunch boxes

Prescribed Medicines – All prescribed medicines need to come to us in the original box with the pharmacy label clearly stating the name of the child and the dosage. Expect forms to fill in.

Non –prescribed Medicines – We cannot have sick children at the Beehive so only accept non-prescribed medicines where the child needs a specific treatment but is healthy for example nappy cream or teething. Non-prescribed medicines will need to be signed in with a member of staff (not left in the child's bag)

Thank You for your kind words

Thank you all for being such great supporters of the Beehive at Lindford, we feel very lucky to have such lovely parents and children joining us every day and we look forward to continuing to provide great childcare and education from Lindford Village Hall. We are working on growing our community presence and welcome your support and suggestions in this area. Word of mouth is the most important marketing tool we have so thank you for positive words on our facebook page and keep on telling your friends about us.

Annette, Jan and Natasha

Funding

Government website outlining childcare options: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

There have been some big changes to funding over the past few months. Many of the changes are complex and cumbersome and we are doing our best to understand and incorporate the changes.

15 hours universal free Childcare and Education for all 3 and 4 year olds

This remains unchanged, all children are entitled to 15 hours from the term following their third birthday. This is claimed on your behalf by the setting. (Available for 38 weeks per year)

15 hours funding for 2 year olds

This remains unchanged and is available for eligible 2 year olds i.e. those on: Income support, job seekers allowance, employment support allowance, Universal Credit, tax credits (for income under £16,190) guaranteed element of state pension credit, support through part 6 of the immigration and asylum Act and Working tax credit 4 week run on.

The additional 15 hours funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds – This is the biggest change

Introduced in September 2017 and subject to spaces available at the setting.

The total of 30 hours is available to working parents where both parents earn an average of £120 per week each (approximately 16 hours at minimum wage) and not more than £100,000 each per year. This is claimed through HMRC and parents need to check their eligibility on the government website.

Once you have used the eligibility checker you will be given a code which you will give to the pre-school. You will need to continue to use the availability checker every 3 months and inform the Beehive immediately should your eligibility cease.

This must be applied for and a code obtained by the end of the term before you wish to access the funding.

Many pre-schools, nurseries and childminders are refusing to accept the 30-hour funding as it doesn't reflect the real cost of providing the service. We are cautiously integrating the new system but will need to monitor viability over the coming months

Childcare vouchers

These remain unchanged (but are likely to be phased out) and are available through your employer. They are available to parents of children who pay for any part of their childcare. E.g. unfunded 2 year olds. Money is paid into the voucher scheme from the employee gross salary before tax.

Tax free childcare

This is a new scheme administered through the HMRC, parents pay into a child care account and the Government will top-up parents contributions by a further 20%.