

Betty Lewis Nursery School Limited



Spring Term Newsletter – January 2020

Happy New Year to all! We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year. A big thank you from all the staff for the wonderful Christmas presents, cards and Christmas best wishes – we were very spoilt and may still be eating chocolate for the next few weeks!

Last term was a busy one with the exciting lead up to Christmas. The Christmas song concerts and the children's party rounded up the term and we hope the children enjoyed themselves. The spring term is a shorter one (Term 3 is 6 weeks and Term 4 is 5 weeks and 3 days), and as usual we have plenty planned to keep the children busy! You can see what your children will be doing in the section below and staff will also endeavour to use the white board each day to let you know a little bit about what has been going on.

Key persons will be summarising your child's development again in March by completing the 'My Unique Story' forms with you and sending home their Learning Journey files for you to look at with the family. We will also be inviting you in for a chat with your child's key person should there be anything you wish to discuss around this time. Of course if you wish to discuss anything before March then please feel free to come in for a chat anytime.

We would welcome any parent helpers to come in and assist with art activities, playing games or reading to the children this term. It could be just for an hour or the whole session! Any help is much appreciated and it's a good opportunity to see what your child gets up to whilst at pre-school.

We add a voluntary contribution termly to each invoice where a child accesses EYFE hours completely free. The Government doubled 'free' sessions (15 hrs to 30 hrs) for children from September 2017. For many nurseries, pre-schools and childminders, the money the government pays for funded places is not enough. We use these valuable funds from the voluntary contribution to pay for daily snack provision and consumable items.

For those children that will be starting school this September (2020), don't forget that on-line applications need to be made by 15th January 2020. Parents will then be notified of allocations on 16th April .

Ladybird

This term's theme is "winter". We are also practicing putting on our own coats, gloves and hats.

Could we please ask that all water bottles and clothing including hats, gloves and wellies are labelled.

Please could you bring in your child's favourite book as we will be focussing on these over the term.

We are making a WOW wall to celebrate what our wonderful Ladybirds can do! We would love you to share with us any exciting WOW moments that your child has at home e.g. helped at home, been kind, learnt something new (how to scoot, jump or a new dance), had a good idea, been on a visit, or made something. Please give us a brief description and a photograph, if possible, on a sheet of A4 paper, and we will display it on our WOW wall.

Mrs Casburn, Mrs Blades and Mrs Miller



Caterpillar and Dragonfly

This term our topic will be animals....looking after our pets, and habitats for farm animals and zoo animals.

We are also encouraging the children to put on their own coats, shoes, hats etc for outdoor play, if you could also support your child with this at home it would be very helpful in getting them ready for "big school"

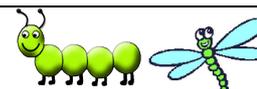
Please could we ask that all items are labelled.

We will also be starting work on phonics during our circle times. If your child would like to bring in an item for show and tell related to the following letters that would be great.

S, A, T, I, P and N

Mrs Craig, Ms Cozens and Mrs Suckling

Mrs Saunders, Mrs Miller and Mrs Collins



Reminders.....

- ***Please can children have a warm coat, hats, gloves and welly boots for outdoor play. Please can all outdoor clothes be CLEARLY NAMED.***
- In the event of severe weather, we always endeavour to open but in circumstances where safety is an issue due to very heavy snow or severe ice it may be necessary to close the nursery. We use 'Kent closures' to notify parents of the decision to close so if in any doubt please check on this website: www.kentclosures.co.uk
- ***Please can everyone continue to be considerate to others when parking and consider parking in the High Street, surrounding roads or behind Tesco's and make the short walk to nursery. Please do not try and access the car park before 9am as it makes it impossible for West Malling School parents to leave the car park, causing serious congestion and forces cars to reverse out of the car park back onto the road. This could ultimately result in a child being hurt or injured. Under no circumstances must cars be left in the car park preventing entry or exit access via the large blue vehicular gates.***
- In accordance with our Medication Policy, we are ONLY permitted to administer prescribed medicines in their original packaging, clearly showing dosage instructions. If children require preventive medicines during pre-school hours we will require a doctor's note detailing the reason and dosage.
- ***Please could we ask that every child has a named pair of wellies for outdoor play, and that these are left at school so they are always available for poor weather conditions. If children wear welly boots to pre-school, they will need a change of footwear to wear inside.***
- Please ensure that rucksacks / bags left on cloakroom pegs do not contain hazardous items (e.g. Calpol sachets etc). Children like to be independent and access their own bags – we have had a number of unwanted items in bags recently! Please especially check for food items and sweets that sometimes find their way into children's ruck sacks! Please be mindful that we have some children that are nil by mouth, and others with allergies and we need to manage the risk such items may pose.
- ***Lunch time – please can drinks be provided in suitable containers, screw top bottles unfortunately get knocked over easily! Grapes, olives, cherries and tomatoes need to be sliced lengthways to reduce the choking risk. We aim to promote healthy living and choices and would encourage parents to fill drinking bottles with water rather than squash. We can then re-fill the bottles with water as required.***
- Finally, a reminder that pre-school starts at 9.15am. When children arrive late, they miss out on valuable circle times with their peers, and it is very disruptive to the rest of their group. It is good practice in preparation for primary school for children to arrive on time ready to start their day.

Thank you for all your support,
Michelle, Julie and the Betty Lewis Staff Team



Spring Term Dates 2020

Term 3	Monday 6 th January to Friday 14 th February 2020
Spring Holiday	Monday 17 th February to Friday 21 st February 2020
Term 4	Monday 24 th February to Wednesday 1 st April 2020