



FIRST STEPS NURSERY

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021

I hope you are all still keeping safe, well and enjoying the sunnier weather!

Please can all parents ensure you apply suncream to your child in the morning, and provide a named sunhat. Staff will reapply cream throughout the day but having it on in the morning allows us to get the children out quicker so they have longer to play.



SCHOOL CAMPUS

Until the government release further updates, the compulsory wearing of face masks/face covering's whilst on the school premises remains in place.

EYFS

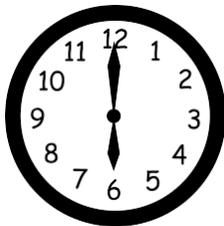
Please see attached letter regarding changes to EYFS which come into effect from September.

HOLIDAYS

Please advise us of any upcoming holidays where your child will not be attending nursery by email.

SPARE CLOTHES

If anyone is able to donate spare clothes it will be much appreciated, especially for baby room where supplies are running low.



6pm FINISHES

We are aware that some of you are waiting to know when we will be able to resume our closing time of 6pm. As you are aware, due to the current Covid-19 situation, we are not able to mix children and staff from different rooms and this is why we have been closing at 5pm each day through the lockdown and re-opening period.

We are not yet in a position to confirm on this, but if we are able to resume this in September we will aim to give as much notice as possible.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 24th June - Concept Photography will be coming into nursery to take photographs of your children, that you can purchase, if wanted.

For those children who aren't usually in on this day, you are welcome to book an appointment with me to bring your child in to have photos taken. The early slot for the first hour & a half, will be dedicated to booked appointments. If the weather allows, photos will take place outside, but if we need to do them inside we will have to ask parents to wait outside during the appointment.

The photographer will be lateral flow tested, wearing PPE and taking the photos from 2m away.

PARKING OUTSIDE PRESCHOOL

Disappointingly, despite the communication sent out over the weekend, this has continued to be an issue, with the picture on the left having been taken on Monday afternoon.

Please be extremely mindful of leaving your cars parked in the preschool car park whilst you come to the nursery buildings. Reminder that the blue gates is an entrance/exit for the school mini buses, contractors, emergency services etc and **MUST** be kept clear and accessible **AT ALL TIMES**. Only designated spaces should be used, please do not park by the wooden fence as this not only restricts access, but it makes it difficult for other parents to get in and out.

The disabled parking bay, **MUST** be kept clear please for parents/carers with a blue disabled badge. We do have parents/carers who use the nursery with this badge & who need to use this parking bay for ease.

There is ample parking in the main school car park, so please do use this car park to help ease the parking in the small car park.

Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.



LUNCHES

During the summer school holidays healthy packed lunches will need to be provided as the school kitchen will be closed. This will be from **26th July for 6 weeks**. Hot lunches will commence again on **Monday 6th September**.



A reminder that the annual fees increase for September 2021 will change slightly from our current pricing structure to include the hot meals in our daily rate, they will no longer be charged separately & refunds will no longer be credited to your account if your children are not in attendance at nursery.

Moving forward, this will include the provision of hot lunches throughout school holidays.

For children who are fully funded, this applies to attendance only, the government provide £4.50 per hour per child, this is a shortfall compared to our hourly fees, however it is not our current policy to expect parents to make up the difference, or be restricted on hours children can use their funding.

As I'm sure you appreciate therefore, we will need to charge additional fees for lunches for those children who are fully funded, this will be kept at the current rate of £2.50 per day but will not be optional and will be invoiced monthly.

STAFF CHANGES

Sue who was working in preschool has left us to go to a nursery with a Forest School which is something she has always wanted to pursue. We are all still staying in touch with Sue as she took home the ducklings to keep after the children had them in preschool so will be getting regular updates regarding them. Linda is leaving us after 7 years. She is moving house and will be working in a nursery closer to home.

Lisa Carpenter who has worked with us since 2009 will be leaving us at the beginning of the summer holidays to have her second child and we wish her all the best for the future.

We welcome Lydia Clarke who has started at Little Learners this week and in September we will be welcoming back Jennee Baxter who has been on maternity leave with her second child.

OTHER

Barnardos Healthy Families have several spaces available on their courses and workshops which are free to attend and being delivered online and via zoom currently – see poster attached.

Nature walks at St Peter's church – see poster.

BABY ROOM

We have been taking advantage of the lovely weather with lots of outside play, water, walks and snacks in the garden. They have been exploring animals, making an on the farm display, introducing new animal songs and farm tough tray books and activities. They have had lots of physical play with the slide, ball pit and soft play. A big thank you to all parents who have been putting suncream on their children as it really helps to get them in the garden quicker so they have longer to play.

Thank you to all who have sent in their family photo of your family for our new "family board" to go on the wall in the baby room. If you haven't yet, could we please ask for these so we can get these up on our wall?

We would like it to be of your baby (in the baby room), along with any siblings, Mum, Dad & any pets if you wish.

You can either send in an actual photo that we can use, or send it in via email to childcare@yateleys.com and we will print them off. Thank you.

TODDLER ROOM

The children have been learning about wild animals. They have explored them in different textures and environments such as sand, mud and water. The books of the month have been "Dear Zoo", "Animal Bop" and "What does my Daddy do". They have enjoyed these stories linking in with Father's Day too.

The sunshine has been amazing and all of the herbs are growing beautifully. Thanks to all the children helping to water them.

LITTLE LEARNERS

The children have been focusing on "all about me" They have been making their own booklets and making crafts to go inside with the size of their feet, hands, colour of their hair and eyes and information regarding siblings and family. The caterpillars have turned into butterflies and have been released. The stick insect eggs are still eggs so the children are waiting for them to hatch. Last week the children focused on the ocean for ocean week.

If anyone has any spare paint, we would appreciate this for decorating the new friendship bench and also if anyone has any alloy wheel hubs they no longer want we'd be very grateful.

PRE-SCHOOL

We have been busy with all kind of activities in pre-school recently, talking lots about nature with our walk and exploring the garden looking for mini-beasts. We've been thinking about flowers and what we need to do to help them grow. Our tadpoles have finally started turning into frogs which is very exciting. We made snakes, and farms for our farm animals.

The children have also been measuring water in different containers in the water tray and as you'll have discovered over the weekend, they've been busy making father's day crafts too.

PARENTS EVENING

In the absence of face to face parents evening, we'd really like the opportunity for keyworkers to have the chance to chat to parents of those children leaving for school this year.

Lists will shortly be available at the door of pre-school to select a time for a phone call with your child's keyworker on either Tuesday 20th or Thursday 22nd July. If you are unable to make any of the times offered please do let us know as we can look to arrange outside of these times if needed.

GRADUATION

Unfortunately we will be unable to proceed with graduation in its usual format, with restrictions being extended, despite our dates being after the 19th July, the graduation takes weeks of practice which takes place in the school hall which due to maintaining bubbles, we aren't able to use again yet.

However, all is not lost, we are in the process of finalising plans for leaver's picnics in place of graduation!

These will take place for the children on two dates **w/c 26th July** on the school fields from

2-4pm, we will provide the food and drink. If your child usually finishes before 4pm we will extend their day slightly to accommodate this activity and you'll be able to pick them up at 4pm from preschool.

Within the next few weeks we will confirm further arrangements.

With regret we are unable to invite parents to these events.

LEAVERS

All children who will be starting school in September are automatically booked in to Pre-School until 31st August 2021, if you want your child to have a different end date, please let Heidi know.



HOME FROM HOME CLUB

"Home from Home" is the out of school care provider at Yateley School providing affordable and flexible care for children aged between 4 and 12 years in full time education at Westfields Infant and Junior School and Cranford Park Primary School. The Breakfast Club is open from 7:30 – 9:00am and the After School Club is open from 3:15 – 6:00pm. If you would like to book your child a place, please contact Jan Walsh on 01252 746973 or 07761 133838 or email: homefromhome@yateleys.com.

Please continue to stay safe & well!
Best Wishes
Heidi & the team.