

April 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Summer term at Busy Bees. We hope the children will enjoy a fun filled term and are ready to undertake a wide variety of fun and educational activities.

As part of the EYFS we focus on seven main areas of learning, which are:-

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development

Communication and Language

Specific Areas

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

For further information please refer to the 'Parents Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework ' which is displayed on the 'Parents Board' in each classroom.

Alternatively you can find the Early Years Stage which includes the Early Learning Goals at www.foundationyears.org.uk The foundation years website also includes a range of resources and contacts.

Your Child's Key Person

Each child is allocated a Key Person, this is the person who works closely with your child and monitors their development. It is vital that EVERY parent is aware who their child's Key Person is and that you have good communication with them. If you are unaware who your child's Key Person is, please ask your child's room leader to introduce you to them.

Classroom Planning

Each week we display a brief description of the activities your child will be participating in throughout the week on the 'A Board' outside your child's class. You can also find this information on our website www.busybees-nurseryschool.co.uk This information is just to give you a bit of an idea of some of the things your child will be doing throughout the sessions, enabling you to prompt discussion with your child about what they have been doing whilst they have been in nursery that day. Further information relating to the classes planning can be found on the EYFS board in your child's class.

We actively aim to encourage parents/carers to be involved with their child's progress, it is very important that we have strong links between home and school. As many of you may know we use 'Tapestry' as part of our way of recording the children's developmental records. This has been very successful so far and we have received lots of positive feedback from both parents/carers and our staff. The benefits of using Tapestry include:

- Enables parents /carers to see photos and observations of your child's learning and experiences
- Share your child's at-home learning activities with us by putting comments on the 'Parents Observations' section

If you haven't received your invitation to join Tapestry or have been unsuccessful in joining, please see your child's key person who will be happy to ensure that you are signed up successfully.

Additionally to Tapestry we like to add 'WOW' moments to your child's file. Please send us any 'WOW moments' you may have observed your child achieving on a Busy Bees 'WOW' slip. For example your child may have zipped their coat up by themselves for the first time, counted from 1 – 20, remained dry through the night etc. We will then transfer the post slip into the child's development file to form part of their learning journey. Photographic evidence is always great too.

As always, if any parents would like to come in and help with any of the activities we would be delighted. Please sign up on the parent's volunteer rota in your child's classroom if you are able to help. Also if you have a skill or hobby the children would find interesting and would like to give a demonstration, please see your child's key person.

Nursery Staff

We have had a few changes to our staffing team this year. We would like to welcome the following staff:-

- Miss Ella – Room Leader in the Butterfly class
- Miss Laura – Room Leader in the Little Chicks class
- Miss Donna – Key Person in the Little Chicks class
- Miss Jenna – Classroom Assistant in the Ladybird class
- Miss Jackie – Classroom Assistant in the Butterfly class and Play Worker in the Kid's Club

You can see a full list of our team and the classes they work in under the 'Staff' section on our website www.busybees-nurseryschool.co.uk

Miss Megan from the Robins class has now left to start her maternity leave – we would like to wish her all the very best for the exciting new chapter in her life!

Healthy Snacks – NO NUTS OR PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN TRACES OF NUTS

As you are aware, each child is required to bring in their own healthy snack each session. May we please stress the emphasis on '**HEALTHY**'

Items for a healthy snack could include:-

Fruit /vegetables (prepared please)

PLEASE ENSURE ALL GRAPES ARE CUT IN HALF LENGTH WAYS

Raisins

Cereal bars

Yoghurts

Crackers etc

Please ensure all snacks are clearly named

Lunches – NO NUTS OR PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN TRACES OF NUTS

If your child stays for lunch, could we please ask that you also provide a healthy lunch. If you wish for us to reheat your child's lunch, please ensure it is clearly labelled with your child's name and what the item of food is – please note – we are unable to reheat rice.

Events taking place in the coming months

April and May – Parents meetings

Each parent should have received an invite to enable you to come in to have a meeting with your child's key person to talk about their progress and any other areas you may wish to discuss. Further information on dates for the parent/carers meetings can be found on our website. Please see your child's Key Person if you have any queries relating to the meetings.

Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th May – Individual photographs

You should have received a letter regarding individual pictures being taken at Busy Bees. Once again, further information relating to Individual School Photographs can be found on our website. Please see your child's room leader if you have any queries relating to the pictures being taken.

June - Class photographs (outdoor group pictures)

Monday 19th June – Robins

Tuesday 20th June - Ladybirds

Wednesday 21st June – Bumble Bees

Thursday 22nd June - Butterflies

Friday 23rd June – Little Chicks

Photographs will be taken in both the morning and afternoon sessions. If your child is not booked in on the day of their class photo and you would like them to be included, please see your child's classroom supervisor who will advise you of the times the photographs will be taken.

July – Presentation days (weather permitting)

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND BLANKET

Monday 17th – July – Ladybirds - 11.00am – 12.30pm

Tuesday 18th July – Robins – 11.00am – 12.30pm

Wednesday 19th July – Butterflies – 11.00am – 12.30pm

Thursday 20th July – Bumble Bees – 11.00am – 12.30pm

Saturday 29th July – Open/ Admissions Day 10.30am – 4.00pm

All parents/carers and visitors are welcome to come in to have a look around and meet the staff and register their child for the new term in September.

Busy Bees items for sale

Children's Busy Bees T- shirts - £6.00 each

Children's Busy Bees sweat shirts - £8.00 each

Busy Bees book bags - £4.00 each

Swimming hats - £5.00 each

Swimming bags - £2.00 each

If you would like to purchase any of these items please see your child's room leader who will be happy to help you.

Can we please ask that **ALL** items of clothing that your child is likely to remove throughout the day is **CLEARLY** labelled with your child's name. These include items such as:

hats, gloves, scarves, coats, cardigans, sweaters, in and outdoor shoes, bags etc.

If your child takes swimming lessons during their time at Busy Bees please also ensure all items of clothing and swimwear are clearly labelled.

There is a lost property bin in the main reception area if your child happens to lose any items!

Sunscreen, sunhats and water bottles

Now that the weather is warming up could you please ensure that your child brings a sunhat to school each session and that you apply a factor 50, waterproof sunscreen to your child prior to them coming to school each session. If your child attends for a full day, could you please provide a bottle of sunscreen which must be kept at school. We will then reapply sunscreen prior to your child going out after lunchtime. Each parent should have signed a 'Parental Sunscreen Disclaimer' form, please ensure yours is up to date. There will also be a Sunscreen Station in each classroom just in case you forget to apply sunscreen prior to leaving the house – please feel free to help yourself to some should you require it. Please also ensure that you send your child to school with a water bottle each session and that you take it home again at the end of the session/day. Please note, the children's water bottles must only contain water and NOT juice. **Please ensure ALL items are CLEARLY named**

Grant and non grant periods for the rest of 2017 are as follows:

Grant will re-start on Tuesday 18th April – Friday 26th May

We are unable to use the grant on Monday 1st May due to it being a Bank Holiday

We will be closed on Monday 29th May due to this being a British and American holiday

Non grant period from Tuesday 30th May – Friday 2nd June

Grant will re-start on Monday 5th June – Friday 21st July

Non grant period from Monday 24th July – Friday 1st September

Grant will re- start on Monday 4th September – Friday 20th October

Non grant period from Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October

Grant will re-start on Monday 30th October – Friday 15th December

Non grant period from Monday 18th December – Friday 22nd December

We will close on Friday 22nd December for our Christmas break and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2018

As we are unable to use grant on Bank Holiday days, we will be offering alternative make up days for children who usually attend on Mondays where a Bank Holiday has fallen within the grant period, these days will be Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th July 2017.

Extracurricular activities

Rural studies

With Spring now here, the children will be able to spend a lot more time working on their rural studies. Please see the 'weekly overview' in your child's class to see the activities they will be participating in.

Swimming

Swimming lessons are held each Tuesday morning, Wednesday morning and afternoon and Friday mornings. The is £5.00 per child per lesson. Please ask your child's room leader for further information relating to the swimming lessons or for a signup sheet should you require one.

Spanish lessons

Spanish lessons are held on Tuesday mornings between 9.30am – 10.15am

For more information on language lessons or to discuss your child attending a free taster session please contact Beverley Smith (tutor) on 01638 717638

Beverley also teaches older children French on Monday afternoons and Spanish on Wednesday afternoons, both between 4.00pm – 4.45pm – Please contact Beverley if you would be interested in an older child taking language lessons.

Forest School

Each class has the opportunity to spend a morning and an afternoon session throughout the week at our onsite Forest School. During the session the children will play games, are able to explore their natural environment. Adults plan various focussed activities with specific learning outcomes. The children have snacks, they listen to stories and rhymes and become confident and familiar with the outdoor environment and the various weather conditions throughout the changing seasons.

Busy Bees car park

During peak pick up and drop off periods- 8.50am – 9.45am. 11.15am – 1.15pm and 3.00pm – 3.50pm the Busy Bees car park is only to be used for parents who have younger siblings to bring in with them or for parents/carers whose vehicle carries a disability badge. All other parents/carers please use the large car park next to the church. If you do use the Busy Bees car park please do not park there for long periods of time. If you intend to stay for a swimming lesson or to allow your child to play in the play area, please also use the car park next to the church.

A few parents have commented on people parking on the pavements outside the front of the nursery. Could we please ask that you do not park here as it makes it very difficult for people to get past with pushchairs and obstructs the view of people coming out of the driveway. It is also against the law to park on pavements!!!

CAN WE PLEASE REMIND YOU NOT TO LEAVE VALUABLES UNACCOMPANIED IN YOUR CAR AT ANYTIME

We would like to mention a few safety points relating to the well-being of your children

1 – If you wish for your child to go home with anyone else, please fill in a ‘parental permission form’ which can be obtained from either your child’s classroom or Sharon in the office. The nominated person must have a valid I.D

2 – Please ensure that doors and gates are closed securely behind you at ALL times when entering and leaving the building . Please also ensure that you do not allow anyone who you do not recognise as a parent on the premises or into the building. Please do not allow your child to press the green exit button by the gate, this is intended for adult use only.

3 – Please do not allow your child to run ahead of you whilst leaving the premises (especially in the car park).

4 – Please do not leave children unattended in cars in the Busy Bees car park. It goes without saying that the possible consequences could be serious.

5 – It is very important that you update your contact details every time they change so that we have good communication in emergency situations. Please ensure you ask your child’s room leader for a change of information form whenever your details change.

6 – If you allow your child to use the climbing frame and other play equipment whilst they are in your care please ensure YOU WATCH THEM CLOSELY AT ALL TIMES. It has been observed that parents are allowing their child free range of the equipment whilst they are having conversations with other parents. It goes without saying that this could be potentially very dangerous and Busy Bees cannot be held responsible for children whilst they are in your care.

7 – Due to several children attending who have nut allergies, could we please ask that you carefully check your child does not bring any nuts or food with nut traces to school with them. Could you also please ensure that if they have eaten nuts prior to them coming to school, you wash their hands and face thoroughly before bringing them into the classroom.

8 – Could we please ask that your child wears closed toed shoes to school, (both in and outdoors) sandals / open toed shoes are not permitted.

Our sickness policy

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell as it puts other group members at risk of catching an infection. If your child is not well enough to participate in their daily activities they should not attend school that day. If a child has had diarrhoea or sickness please do not send them to school for 48 hours since their last attack /symptom. Please contact us via telephone or email if your child is absent due to being unwell, so that we are aware of any illnesses going around. (Please refer to our Sickness Policy on our website for further information on illnesses)

Policies

We have a policies file located on the window sill outside the main office, please feel free to read through it. If you would like a copy of any of our policies please ask your child's room leader.

SENDco information

Lorna Barker is our SENDco (Special Educational Needs + Disability Co-ordinator). If you have any concerns relating to your child please speak to Lorna.

Suggestion box

We are always looking for ways to improve our service, if you have any suggestions on ways in which we can do so please post them in the suggestion box in the main reception area.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the kind parents who have helped us in various ways over the past year, it has been greatly appreciated.

With best wishes

Lorna Barker

Rachel Davies

Nursery Manager

Operational Manager

“Our setting is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at all times and expects everybody working within this setting to share this commitment “