

# December Newsletter 2021

We are fast approaching Christmas and all things glittery. This year has just flown by. It has been a tough one for us for many reasons, but we have survived, and we always come out the other side smiling (most of the time). We would like to take this opportunity in our last newsletter of 2021 to thank you all for your ongoing support. On behalf of all the Poppies teams we would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas with your families, it doesn't seem 2 minutes ago since we were last doing this but here, we are heading at the speed of light to 2022.

We are really looking forward to all the Christmas activities which we have planned for the children, this is just such a magical time of year, and we are very privileged to share this magic with your children.

## A reminder of Christmas dates

**1<sup>st</sup> Dec** - Baby rooms Creative morning

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dec** - 2 – 3 yr. olds Creative morning

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** - Pre-school Creative morning

**14<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Butterflies Nativity (Tidworth)

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Ladybirds Nativity (Perham Down)

\*\*The Nativities will be filmed for you to watch with a link which we will give to you, and photographs will be taken which you will be able to purchase directly from Katie's website.

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas lunch at Perham Down £2.75

**16<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Christmas party with special guest

\*\*The Christmas party is just for the children and the staff. Any child who is not normally in for that day is able to come along for the extra session. There are no hot lunches on this day and small fee of £10 is charged for your child's present and for their food on that day.

**17<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas lunch at Tidworth £2.75

**22<sup>nd</sup> Dec** - last day before Christmas

**4<sup>th</sup> January 2022** - Nursery re-opens

**School Applications September 2022** – If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2022 you need to get your applications into Wiltshire County Council by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**Christmas Tree's** - We will be getting our Christmas trees in both nurseries very soon. We always opt for real Christmas trees, but this leaves us with 2 trees to dispose of when we close on 22/23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. If anyone would like to take one of the trees off our hands then please let us know and they are yours. It will be a first come, first served basis.

**Hot lunches** – our new system is going well, and we are really pleased with the food which we are receiving. We are still finding that some of you are ordering on the day which we can accommodate, as an emergency. Please try to plan ahead and book your child in for their lunches the week before when the lunch lists are out to avoid disappointment and having to go out and buy your child a packed lunch.

**COVID** – We are still asking parents to bring in a named water bottle for during the day at nursery. Please, please ensure that you name ALL your child's belongings. We know this is tiresome but especially over the Winter month's there are lots of gloves, hats, waterproof coats/trousers as well as all the other spare clothes and personal possessions and so we ask you to do this so that we can return any mis-placed items straight back to you.

With the spike in positive COVID cases in the local area we are sticking with our COVID protocol's and asking that you do not send your child into nurse if they are presenting with any COVID symptoms, or if they are unwell. The advice is to get a PCR test if you suspect COVID and not to rely on lateral flow tests.

**Holidays** - Please double check the dates you are booking your child out of nursery please. We have had a couple of occasions recently whereby children have been booked out and then we have been asked to change the dates. We do understand that things can change and of course if we can do this then we will but we sanction staff holidays based on our occupancy levels and so if you book out and then ask to book back in, we may not be able to accommodate this for you. Just reminder that anyone who is not in receipt of their 30 hours funding is entitled to use 6 weeks' worth of holiday retainer. Please read your terms and conditions to see what you need to do to get this reduction in your fee's.

**Staffing** - We have several staff changes to let you know about.

You may have seen on our Facebook page but Hannah at Perham Down has had her baby. Elizabeth was born on 18<sup>th</sup> November weighing 7lb 50z.

Jodie is covering a temporary maternity Supervisor role in Butterflies along with Jackie and Adi who is our 1:1 support worker.

Kelly has stepped down so that she can fully dedicate herself to her Master's and give it all the time and effort that is required. She will now be working in Sunflowers.

We have a new apprentice Jaydean coming on board and she will be working in Sunflowers.

*Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas, we look forward to all our new adventures in the New Year*

