

Newsletter – August/September 2021

Welcome to all our new families! Can you believe we are already heading into September and Autumn is fast approaching and it will soon be time to dust off the winter coats and bobble hats despite the fact that we don't seem to have really had a summer.

Dates for your diary

Photographs

1st November @ Tidworth

8th November @ Perham

Christmas

14th December Butterflies Nativity @ Tidworth

15th December Ladybirds Nativity @ Perham

22nd December Last day for the children

23rd Staff training (no charge to parents)

4th January Nursery re-opens

Christmas Creative Mornings – some of our parents will remember that we used to offer a creative morning when you came into the nursery and made festive items with your child. This was usually accompanied by a cake stall, pottery painting, jar tombola and other fun activities. We are really hoping to be able to run a Christmas Creative Morning this year, it may not be on the same scale as previous years but all being well, we will be able to invite you in to your child's room to be able to get creative. We will of course abide by any current guidelines and so for this reason the dates and order for the morning will be announced closer to the time. If we are running this, it will be during the w/c 6th December.

Staff Changes

Every year staff get moved around and this can happen across the year. This is for a variety of reasons, it could be that someone has left the team, someone has gained a qualification, someone is moving up with their key children, someone has been promoted...the list goes on. We do try to keep changes minimal but sometimes circumstances are outside of our control, and we have to have a little change around to ensure that we are meeting Ofsted requirements.

Your room supervisor will let you know who your child's key person will be and if you have any concerns, please speak to either them or to a member of management.

Promotions – We are delighted to announce that Jess has been promoted to Deputy Manager, and will be working alongside the existing management team Ian, Vic & Victoria across all settings. Her commitment to the company and her professionalism has paid off and it is a thoroughly deserved promotion.

We are also happy to announce that Jade at Perham, Kelly and Lesley at Tidworth and Ness at The Cottage have also gained well deserved promotions to Supervisor. We are sure you will join us in wishing them all the very best of luck in their new roles.

Funding

If you think you may be entitled to your 30 hours funding, then please have a look on the Childcare Choices website to check your eligibility, you can do this in advance of you receiving the funding. If you are, then please apply for it so that Diane is able to verify this for you at the start of the new term. Once you have your unique code, we will ask you to complete a form giving us permission to verify it so that we can apply the funding to your child.

Any child in receipt of funding will have an explanation of how the funding is allocated for the term with your invoice from Diane. Please, please read this and keep it in a safe place for future reference.

AUTUMN TERM 2021 3-5 YR FUNDING FROM 01/09/21 TO 22/12/21

PLEASE NOTE THAT FUNDED HOURS CAN ONLY BE USED ON CORE SESSIONS BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9.00am – 5.00pm.

Term Time Only 15 Universal Hours Per Week or 30 Extended Hours Per Week

Autumn Term is from the 01/09/21 to the 22/12/21.

The maximum number of universal funded hours you are entitled to within the Autumn Term is 210 universal hours, or 420 extended hours.

Term time funding is calculated over 14 weeks. From the 01.09.21 – 20.10.21 (7 weeks) either 105 universal hours apply or 210 extended hours. From the 01.11.21 – 17.12.21 (7 weeks) either 105 universal hours apply or 210 extended hours.

**Please note that FULL FEES WILL APPLY during the half term breaks which are: -
21.10.21 – 29.10.21 and the 20.12.21 – 22.12.21**

Stretched Universal and extended funded hours over the whole term.

Stretched funding will automatically be applied unless you advise us otherwise and this will be stretched over the whole term from the 01/09/21 to the 22/12/21. The maximum number of funded hours you will receive are either 210 universal hours or extended 420 hours. The maximum number of weeks are 16 which means that if you stretch the funding over the whole term, you will receive approximately 13 universal funded hours per week or approximately 26 extended funded hours per week.

Facebook

We have been quiet on Facebook as we adjusted to our new normal at the nursery after Elaine sadly passed away. We are hoping to change this as we move forward in September so keep your eyes peeled. If you **DO NOT** want your child to be on Facebook, you must let your room supervisor know. We always cover faces, so children are not identifiable unless we have specifically asked parents first, but please make your wishes known.

If you would like to write us a review on our Facebook page or send us a testimonial for our new website (which is now up and running - www.poppiesdaycarenursery.co.uk)

we would be super grateful, it really means a lot to us. You can send any testimonials to poppies@poppiesdcn.com – thank you in advance.

The Cottage

Our holiday club has been amazingly successful over the summer holidays, and we have had many repeat customers which is testament to how brilliant it is. We will be running a half term holiday club for the w/c 25th October so if you haven't already signed up, just email us for a registration/re-register form and we can get your child booked in. Please let your friends know about us as well as spaces fill up really quickly.

If you haven't already, please let us know your child's new class name and their return date to school if they attend the before and after school club, thank you.

Aprons

The children at nursery access a lot of messy activities and in the past, we have encouraged the children to wear aprons to save their clothes. Recent thinking is that if a child will not wear an apron are we limiting their creative flow or their experiences or ability to become engrossed in play and learning by making them wear aprons? This got us thinking about how we offer messy activities to the children and how we ensure that all children are free to explore them.

We always advocate that you don't send your child to nursery in their best clothes so they don't get ruined and what we would like to ask is that you send your child to nursery with clothes which you don't mind if they get paint, mud, or anything else which is classed as messy on. We know that you want your children to have lots of different learning experiences with us here at nursery and removing the constriction of us trying to negotiate with a child to put on an apron would free the children up to come and go at the activities that they want to explore.

While we are talking about messy play, we just wanted to let you know about process art. At Poppies we allow the children to explore the materials we offer without the pressure of necessarily having an end product. This allows the children to drip glue onto a table, or to smear paint on their arm without necessarily having to put anything onto the paper. In being free to do this they are still learning and exploring but without us as the adult steering them in a specific direction, this is called child led learning.

This process also allows your child to be individual, and proud of their own creations if they make them. When you can come back into the nursery your child can show with pride exactly which piece of artwork, or which model is theirs because each one is completely different and unique. So, if your child doesn't bring home any artwork it may just be that they have had the most amazing morning snipping with scissors or rubbing paint between their hands and they have had just as a fulfilling time as if they were painting a picture.

Please can we ask that.....

-You name **ALL** your child's belongings. We do try our absolute best not to lose items but when there are lots of children to get ready, or children are being independent items can get mis-placed. It makes it much easier for us to get the items back to you if they are named.

There are many name sticker websites, and these are really robust and stay on even when being put through the dishwasher. We know it is a lot to think about naming bottles, pants, bags etc but it really does help us to keep everything together for you.

-You collect your child on time. Staff are not able to leave until the children have gone home and if you are late it impacts on the staff being able to leave and collect their own children. We appreciate that there are times when something crops up which is unavoidable, in these instances we would ask you to please call us so that we know you are running late.

-If you book extras and you find you need to cancel them, please give us adequate notice or you will be billed for it even though you don't use it. When you ask for extras, we arrange the staffing accordingly and if we are not able to change this then unfortunately you will still be charged. Thank you.

-If the sun ever returns, please can you pop some sun cream onto your child before you bring them to nursery in the morning. We will keep it topped up across the day as required.

Thank you!

We have had many children leaving us to go on to school or moving on to new adventures elsewhere and we would just like to say thank you for all the lovely gifts that you have given the staff. They are very much appreciated. We have been given chocolates, plants and even book vouchers which is wonderful, we are so grateful.