

**NEWSLETTER**

Hello everyone and we hope you have had a fantastic summer!

Hope you are all looking forward to the start of the preschool on **Tuesday 5th September** and a fun packed year ahead of us!

Believe it or not- I personally will have clocked up 25 years with Addingham Pre School next week, after starting September 1998- and I look forward to the start of my 26th year next week!

Myself, along with my lovely staff members are getting ready to welcome back many of you and to say “hello” to many news faces too!

We will be saying “hello” to:

Poppy, Olivia, Ozzy, Frankie, Thomas, Louis and Ettie who will be joining us as part of the older cohort of children, and Addy, Teddy, Rafe, Eliza, Thomas, Max, Daisy, James, Bodhi, Benji, Rex, Tedi and Emily who will be joining us as part of the younger cohort of children.

Wow! Lots of new children- how exciting!

We also say “hello” to Mrs Natasha Harrison who will be joining our staff team. We hope she too enjoys being with us!

**Curriculum Topics/themes**

I will be telling you a little bit about our curriculum in another newsletter- don’t wish to overload you at the moment!

However- during September we will be focussing on allowing the children to settle well, explore their surroundings, meet new children and learn about new routines and for us to get to know all about them.

We will be making new friends and finding out lots about each other and hence the September enhanced topic will be ……”All about Me”

**Start of the Day**

There are 3 start times during a day.

8.00am, 8.45am and 12.20pm. At these times we will open the door and be there to greet you and the children. Don’t worry if you arrive later, the door may well be closed for security reasons- but just ring the doorbell.

Many children will be happy to say their goodbyes on the door but we totally understand that there are times they are a little unsettled or in particular if they are a new starter and therefore we don’t mind if you come on in with them and a member of staff will help them to part from you and settle. Some children take longer than others- so please don’t worry.

As you drop children off- if there is anything we need to know , this can be done as a quick message on the door or if you would like a bit longer or more of a confidential chat- we can happy to listen to you then too in more of a private area. You can always phone or email us.

At the end of each session- 11.45, 3.20 or 4.30…… again we will open the door at these times and bring the children to you at the door. If we need to feedback to you (or the person who is picking up about your child’s time with us that day) - we will do so at this point.

**Breakfast**

For children who are coming at 8.00am- we will be serving cereals and toast (or something similar) with a drink of milk.

**Packed lunches**

Any packed lunches should be placed in a labelled container. Any separate drink containers to be named as well please. We ask that food items are healthy and nutritious. Please do not bring in nuts or food containing nuts due to allergies. Please ensure grapes are cut in half lengthways and no sweets please.

Staff are always within sight and hearing of children whilst they are eating.

We have an area in the cloakroom for lunch boxes/containers and the children will get used to placing them there.

**Snacks**

We ask that at some point during a half term, parents kindly donate some snacks please. Fruit is a good choice, as are items like breadsticks, raisons, crackers, cheese etc- thank you.

We will offer a snack mid-morning and mid-afternoon. For children who bring a packed lunch and didn’t eat everything- we will encourage them to eat something from there for afternoon snack.

Water is always available as an alternative to milk as well as being available throughout the day. A few parents have already indicated their child drinks a milk alternative. Please remember to bring a week’s supply at the first session they attend in the week please.

**Clothes and footwear**

Please be aware that your children will get messy from time to time- a sign of having fun! We do have aprons which we encourage children to wear when they are at a messy activity e.g. paint…..but …..they don’t always want to wear one.

Please, therefore don’t dress your child in their best clothes!

Also- it would be appreciated that if your child is still in pull-up’s/nappies – they wear clothes that are easy to take off and put back on again after a change by a member of staff.

It is also equally important for children who are gaining independence at toilet times to wear clothes that they can easily sort.

We have spare clothes in case of toilet accidents or a change needed after messy/water play but if you prefer to pop some in a bag and leave it on your child’s peg ( no draw strings please) that is fine.

Any supply of pull-ups/nappies can be placed in this bag too. We have a supply of nappy sacks and wipes but not nappies or pull-ups.

If your child was to arrive in wellies- please ensure they bring some shoes to change into. This could be outdoor shoes, trainers, plimsolls, slippers etc.

Please name coats and any other outdoor clothing as well as wellies

**Toys brought from home**

For various reasons- can we ask that toys are not brought in from home.

Whilst we have safety standards to meet for all toys and equipment in preschool, bringing in items from home can cause upset when they get broken or get lost. Children are also known to sneak in small items like coins and beads which impose choking risks.

If your child needs to bring in a soft toy as a comforter- this is fine . But again…… please bear in mind if it gets left behind and you don’t realise until bedtime when it is needed……then you could be in for a tricky night! Believe me- this has happened.

**Absences**

Just a reminder that if you know in advance of any time your child will be absent due to holidays, appointments, a day off now and again for other commitments/activities etc- please let us know by telling us on the door, phone call or email. It’s not a problem to have time off.

If you decide on the day to have a day doing other things or in the unfortunate event that your child is unwell – then just give us a call or drop an email before 10.00am for children who should be with us in the morning and before 1.30pm for those attending an afternoon only session.

If a child is absent without notification, we will give you a call to ascertain a reason. We appreciate you may have just forgotten to contact us. If you are unobtainable, then we will attempt to contact someone on your emergency contact and collection lists. If we are still unable to make any contact with anyone to ascertain reason for absence within 24 hours, we have an obligation to contact Bradford Children’s Safeguarding Team in accordance with safeguarding legislation.

Therefore -it’s important we know when your child will not be attending and the reasons.

Fees are still payable when a child is absent for any reason.

**Illnesses/injuries**

Just a reminder that if your child has a temperature- they should not be in Pre School.

For sickness and or diarrhoea- there must be 48 hours between their last bout of sickness/diarrhoea and their return to pre-school.

If your child has an accident/injury outside of preschool- please inform us the next time they attend (if not already done so) so that we are aware of this. Even if it’s just a tumble coming to preschool (which often happens!)

If your child has had a head bump/injury- we ask they do not attend for 48 hours as concussion can still happen during this time.

**Fees and invoices**

At the start of each month- I will email out any invoices that are due for payment for that particular month.

If once the monthly invoice has been submitted and your child attends an extra session(s) at any future date that month- a separate invoices(s) will be emailed out.

**Consumables**

This is a voluntary fee request- also invoiced for at the start of a month.

This is only requested when you use 3 & 4 year old Nursery Funding .

Each half day is £2 and this helps to cover the shortfall between the hourly fee we receive from the government for the nursery funding and our actual hourly fee we would normally charge (which is significantly less1)

For any children who stay for breakfast- and additional £1.50 per day will be added to this invoice.

**Nursery Funding**

For those are claiming Nursery funding – our final claim will be submitted on 7th October. Up to that point you are able to change the hours you claim if you so wish – so if any of your child’s hours need altering- please let me know before that date.

At present a child becomes automatically eligible for the nursery funding from the start of the term after their 3rd birthday. Some 2 years olds are able to claim but are subject to meeting certain criteria.

Looking ahead -from April 2024, all 2 year olds will be automatically eligible for the funding (without criteria attached). This is just the 15hrs. Once they turn 3- and you are working parents- then 30 hours of funding may be available.

If you would like to know more about the Nursery Education Funding and other ways you can pay fees visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

This will not tell you about the April 2024 2 year old funding just yet- but it is something for those of you who will have a 2 year old at that point to look forward to!

**Social media**

If you are a Facebook user and haven’t already done so- please search

Addingham Preschool parents & carers and request to join. We use this to send out information, reminders, advertise events and activities, quick messages etc. On a Friday evening I will also post what we have been doing that week- adding pictures of children (where parental consent has been received).

We also have a public page- Addingham Pre School which is used more for publically advertising events and sometimes posting what we have been up to. Please follow that too!

**AGM- Wednesday 27th September 8pm at The Hub Addingham**

We are on the look-out for new committee members! Would you like to get more involved with the running of our preschool?

We are a committee run preschool and they meet with staff at various intervals throughout the year to discuss and decide upon various matters related to the running of our Pre School. They also help to organise fund raising events.

It is a great way of getting involved. Do you fancy coming on board? Would you like to know more? Then please talk to me, a present committee member or another member of staff.

You do not necessarily need to be at the AGM to get voted on- just let us know and we will do it in your absence!

I think that is all for now! If I have missed something you need to know about- just let me know!

I have attached holiday dates for next year if you haven’t got them already.

Looking forward to see you all again!

Penny & Team