

Gentle reminders- Starting Preschool September 2022

Welcome

Welcome back after the summer! It has gone quickly and we hope you have all had a nice rest and are feeling ready for this new term!

Many of you are returning and although you are familiar with our setting, your child will be in different room with different adults. Some children will have a different Key person too.

Key Person

As I have already stated we will all be in one room for some of the day. All the children will now be able to access the whole garden also. There are now only five of us so there will be three Key groups. One group will have Sharon as their key Person, one Ali and one Jasmine. Linda and I will not be having a group but will be supporting all the children across the week. You will be notified of your Key Person in due course, but remember all staff will all look after your child throughout each session.

Sharing worries

At collection and drop off it may be tricky to speak to your key person so if you need to let us know something important (such as your child had been ill since last attending; they had a very bad nights sleep; had been upset before coming to preschool we would appreciate you sending a quick email to northhinkseyccclubs@gmail.com which we will see prior to 9.00. we can then make a point of having a quick chat, either with myself (Ruth), Linda or your key person. Or you can leave a brief message on our answer machine 01865 794287. We are available at work from 8.00 am.

Drop off, buggies and bikes

Our pathway is very narrow. If your child has come to preschool in a buggy, please leave your buggy at the bike shed half way along the path. The same with bikes! Please do not bring them up to the hand over point. Obviously if you have a sibling in the buggy that's fine. The quicker the drop off is the better for children and parents. Prolonging the drop off can cause anxiety for all concerned. You can leave via the side gate or if you need to return to collect bike or buggy you can walk back past the queue.

We know, through experience, some children will be fine with a nice quick cheerful drop off and other's may find this difficult. Please take our lead, if we feel it would benefit your child we would invite you up to the canopy, however this would be the exception, if your child is distressed. It really is best to start as you mean to go on. If you are then concerned after you have left and want to call us please do. We will be open and

honest about how things are going. If your child really does not settle we would always call you, when we can. I would suggest waiting until around 10 to call.

Bags and belongings

Please label clearly... everything!! We will label things ourselves, if we need to. with a permanent marker. It really helps if your child knows/ recognises their own things.

Remember, send plenty of spares, especially if your child is toilet training or has accidents, or even if they like water/ mud play. Don't send them in precious clothes. It would be ideal if at the beginning of term you send spares to stay at preschool in a long handled shopper bag. This would stay on their peg. Then daily if you send your child with a **small plimsol bag or ruck sack, one they can carry**, which we would send home dirty clothes etc in. Please provide your child with Wellies (these are best labelled on the outside). They will be kept in a rack with everyone's so it helps if they know which ones are theirs!!

Shoes

Our garden has lots of challenges and different surfaces, and things to climb on. If your child plays in the sand or with water they are asked to put wellies on. When they are running around, climbing playing trainers or sensible well fitting shoes are best. We would prefer they didn't wear sandals, open toed shoes or crocks as children will often catch toes, or trip in them. We don't ask for children to change into indoor shoes inside (as some schools do) and we do ask children to always keep shoes on (in case of a fire evacuation), with the exception of sleeping children.

Lunches, snacks and drinks

We are a NUT FREE setting. This means you must not send nut products in lunch boxes, such as peanut butter, Nutella sandwiches. Please provide a healthy lunch box. We encourage children to eat vegetables and fruit crackers, sandwiches, yoghurt etc. It is difficult to get them to eat these healthy things if you add chocolate, sweets and crisps. Please try to avoid these treats! As part of EYFS we MUST promote healthy eating and Oral care. Many of the "Child" marketed products such as fruit yoghurts or fruit strings are loaded with sugar, and these are very bad for children's teeth. The same goes for many fruit juice drinks. The only thing the children should have in water bottles is water and they will be offered water and milk throughout the day. We only introduced using water bottles during covid and are considering returning to cups of water.

Children will be provided with a fruit/ vegetable snack in the morning. If they attend either extended day session (am or pm) they will have fruit, vegetables, crackers, cereals etc). At snack time children will have either water or milk.

Nappies and Toilet Training

If your child is in Nappies please could you provide some (small packet-labelled) to remain at preschool with wipes and cream. We will need to keep some Nappies in a cupboard in the Hive to change during garden play times and if your child sleeps. It would be helpful too to have some in their daily ruck sack with wipes/ cream as these would be used during changes at indoor play times.

If your child has recently been toilet training don't be alarmed if there are accidents in the new routine and environment. It is very usual! Sometimes children will become engrossed in play and forget and it is much further to reach toilets. We prompt children to use the toilets at certain times such as before going outside, before snack, lunch etc and throughout sessions especially if we notice wiggling!! But some children may be reluctant to begin with. If you are concerned as with anything just speak to us.

Safeguarding

It is our job to keep all children safe. If you have any worries about anything, or if things are going on at home that may affect your child please speak to me in confidence. Equally if you are worried about any child or family please let me know. We have lots of experience and will do everything we can to support children and their families.

I am sure this email will throw up lots of further questions, so get in touch nhps.manager1@gmail.com That's my email (Ruth) or Linda northinkseyccclubs@gmail.com

We are still officially on holiday until next Tuesday but will respond if we can!

I am sure as we settle into a new routine with new children and once again a different way of working for staff we will discover things we may need to change, but I am sure you will continue to support us through your child's preschool journey!

Enjoy the last few days of summer.

Best wishes

Ruth and Team x