



## PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE CLUBS NEWSLETTER

We cannot believe how fast this term is going already! It must have been the shortest term ever! I'd like to welcome our 3 new families whose children have joined us this January. The children are settling in easily and things are going well!

This term ends this Friday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at our usual time of 3.00pm and we

reopen on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February. The Easter holiday starts after we breakup on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 12.00 noon and reopen on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We always follow North Hinksey Primary term times and inset days, so if in doubt look here:

**Staff News...** You may have noticed a few new faces amongst our team. We have Becca now with us on Monday's and Tuesday's. Becca is a very experienced trained Early Years practitioner (ex-Manager of a setting). She also has a three-year-old so is very up to date with how it feels to be a parent of a young child. We also have Neave (an Early Years Degree Student in her final year) and a level 3 student from Abingdon and Witney College, Lea. They all are a real help and support your children alongside the full-time team.

Lea Kloepfinger has now completed her level 3 and is a qualified Early Years Practitioner, Well done Lea! Jasmine is very nearly completed her level 3.

Sharon and Emily have nearly completed the "Early Years Professional Development program", a refresher course funded by DfE with a focus on "Personal Social and Emotional Development, Communication and language and early Math's". These courses are a real commitment as they are undertaken out of hours, so I am proud to say it demonstrates the commitment the team have to their own learning.

**Numbers of Children...** We are experiencing many applications for sessions. Many of you will be reading about the Early Years Funding Reforms and you can find out more here.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

To apply for a funded 15 hours for a 2-year-old wanting a place at Easter you need to go on here and apply for your code. Without the code we are not able to offer you a funded place. The process is a little “clunky” so if you need any help please ask.

We do not yet know what the funding rates are for providers and so do not know what the impact on us will be or on our fees so watch this space.

Every day we have 20 or more and lots are staying all day. When you arrive at 9 and there aren't many of you in the queue, it is because half the children are already in Breakfast club! The same at collection time at 3, some days there are 13 children staying until 5.

Please do feed back anything you think we could think about in provision, as the reforms could be an opportunity for us. I have contacted local providers to see if they are changing their offer and had no response so if you do know of anything happening elsewhere, please do let me know!

**Weather and Clothing...**Please, as always make sure your child comes to Preschool with appropriate clothing to our ever-changing weather!

If they have been toilet training also, please make sure they have clothes on they can pull down to go to the toilet themselves. Also, plenty of spares. We don't have lots of spares so if we don't have spares, we will need to ring you to bring some in. ...If anyone has any bottoms such as leggings and trousers etc. pants socks, we would be grateful for some spares also.

**Lastly...**As usual, if you have any concerns or would like to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact me.

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