



## PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE CLUBS NEWSLETTER

**April 2023...** I hope you all had a great Easter holiday.. It is amazing how time flies! Many of you will now have received your offer of a school place. Don't forget to accept the offer! Please can you let me know which school your child is going to in September 2023? It helps us plan transitions for the children.

This **term ends on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00 pm** and the **Summer Term** then starts **Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>** after an inset day. We then **Break up for the Summer holidays on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 12.00 noon.** Please note there are also **bank holidays Monday May 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>** when we will be closed.

We always follow North Hinksey Primary term times and inset days, so if in doubt look here:  
<https://www.north-hinksey-school.org.uk/uploads/9/5/4/0/95408552/termdates2022-23-converted.pdf>

**SAVE THE DATE...** I am thrilled that School are running the May Fayre this year and have invited us to have some stalls of our own! We are going to be offering Cream tea's in our Garden (we have done this before Covid and it was very successful) We are also having a "Teddy Tombola" and a "Wine Lotto"! I will need any "Nearly New Teddies" than can be donated.. also Bottles of wine **and** Empty wine bottles, that we will wrap up for the Tombola. If you can bring any of these things to Preschool I would be grateful.. Don't swamp us with empty wine bottles though please! Then remember the date as we will need support and some volunteer helpers, in short time slots! Watch this space for more information.

**Staff News...** Good News for us.. we have appointed a new member for our Team, Lea who has been working in another setting and will complete her apprenticeship with us over the coming months. I am sure you will welcome her and the children will talk about her too.

**Students...** Last term we have had the pleasure of 4 young people, volunteering/ working with us doing their work experience, or college work placements with us. Neave from Brookes will still be with us this term. The children have really enjoyed having these new faces to talk to, play with and get to know!

**Training...**We have been having short training sessions throughout the term on Fire safety, Coshh, Health and Safety. We use the time on Mondays and Fridays before we open to plan and think about what we can do to support ALL children!

I am also undertaking a Level 3 SENCO training, this is not mandatory but I believe it will become so.

This term a number of staff will be attending Math's training so we can brush up our skills to support young children in this area.

**Numbers of Children...**We have 3 more families starting with us this term.. so we are growing again! I am also receiving a great deal of applications for places, in light of the Budget decisions. We have not received any guidance around funding rates etc yet so we are just adding names to our waiting list for September. This term we are going to be really busy as some children have increased sessions and then with the extra children. It *really* helps if you can be on time as it takes someone away from the children to meet you and settle your children.

**Gates and Badgers...**This term we will continue to meet you at the bike shed.. there has been more digging over Easter! Please bear with us.

**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, including shoes! Please leave wellies at Preschool too as children are asked to wear them if playing in sand, mud kitchen or with water! We don't have lots of spares so if we don't have spares we will need to ring you to bring some in. ...

**Toys and Jewellery from home...**Please discourage your child from bringing in things from home.. they will not be allowed to take them into school so it would be good to start NOT bringing them into Preschool. They are often quickly discarded anyway. It is best to keep personal precious items at home.

**Parent Visits...**Now I think most people are feeling more relaxed about Covid, I thought this term it would be nice to welcome some of you in to come and spend time with the children. It would be really lovely too if you have any special skills that you could share with a small group such as, if you are a chef...(you know who you are!), may be you could cook with them or a Baker..decorate cakes with them, or a hairdresser..the children love to have their hair plaited, or they love to comb the staff' hair! You may

have a skill they could watch , like painting, I have crocheted and sewed with them before, and they are interested. Perhaps you do woodwork, play an instrument or even if you'd like to come and read some stories or just play! We would need to book you in so we know that we can support you properly so if you are keen please, have a chat with me! Parents/ Grandparents welcome! Your children will love it!

**Feedback...**This last term we have had a number of parents come in and have a chat about their children, if they have had concerns or just to find out about how their child gets on with other children. Please if you would like to do this let me know. We don't offer parents evenings as such, as not everyone wants one but are happy to make time for a chat if it is helpful for you.

***It would also be really helpful if after reading this you could spare a few minutes to email me a few points on what you child is doing at home/ what their interests are at the moment? Any recent challenges they have conquered? Any challenges you have at home with them.***

***Many of your children are going off to start school and this term we often notice changes at preschool, maybe your child is excited, or anxious about starting school? The feedback you give will be given to your key persons.***

**School Starters...**Also this term we will be working with North Hinksey Reception Teachers to start the process for them to get to know your children. Each day (not the first week) some of them will have snack in reception in small groups. We then extend this to having a play or joining in an activity in reception.

If your child is going to a different school we can talk to the school to support their transition 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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