



## PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE CLUBS NEWSLETTER

**May...** This term will finish on Friday 28th May at 2.45/ 3.00, depending on your group, and we will return after an inset day on Tuesday 8th June. We will be breaking up for the summer holidays on Wednesday 21st July at 2.45/ 3.00.

**COVID 19 Guidance**...As you know the government guidance changes from Monday the 17th May, however having reviewed the guidance and through attending a Covid Meeting with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), and Public Health England, (PHE) on Tuesday night, we will NOT be making any changes to our groups or ways of working. I must say this has been a little frustrating for us as we would like to work more fluidly in terms of staffing however PHE and OCC were very clear we are in a period where they are monitoring the opening up of more aspects of our lives and the virus is still around, and I think it is important to remember we DO NOT socially distance from the children, where as in Secondary schools there is expectation that they will still be socially distanced. We are still recommended to keep small consistent groups (by ages) and keep consistent staff. We do also still need to keep up the additional cleaning, and social distancing from Parents. It is also important to remember even vaccinated people can catch and transmit the virus. The other point raised was that Lateral Flow Tests are not to be used on preschool or primary school children or if you have symptoms, therefore if your child has symptoms, you must get a PCR test.

**Open day...**Some of you will know that we held an Open day on Saturday to enable us to show around prospective families. This was operated through timed slots, with limited staff. We briefly showed families around 2 at a time, and talked mostly outside (weather permitting!) I'd like to thank the staff that gave up their own time to do this. I think you'll all agree it is easier to get a feel for a setting in person. We had a great response through posters I had put up, but mostly through our Facebook page, which we have worked hard on this year to enable us to reach a wider community. I would be interested in your views about our Facebook page, as this is something we could develop further. We had a good response and numbers of children look healthy for September and beyond. Please share the Facebook page with friends and if you feel like adding a review, we would be grateful.

We will be sending out some sort of survey in the next few days around hours for September as we are exploring options, in case we are in a position with Covid to do things differently.

**Early Years Foundation Stage 2021...** You may or not, know, but this statutory guidance has been revised, and from September 2021 we will be working from the revised document. One of the main aspects of this revision is to reduce paperwork and to enable staff to use their professional judgement when considering children's learning and development needs. We are well placed to implement this as staff are experienced and well trained. Over the last few years, we have developed ways of working that are already in line with the new guidance so there will not be many changes for your children. It has been an opportunity for us at a Team to review our ethos and our curriculum and offer. If you would like to read more, please see [here](#):-

This will also be uploaded to our website in the coming weeks.

**Training...**All staff have been very busy attending virtual training in the revised EYFS as well as Oral Health training, which is a new aspect of our curriculum for September. As manager I also regularly attend Manager's briefings with OCC and Covid meetings. Sharon and I have also been supporting school with the Working Party, set up to support School in getting some Wrap care up and running from September.

**Numbers of Children...** This term has seen new children start but also children increase their hours and days, therefore staff have increased their hours worked and have more children in a session. This does affect the sorts of activities we are able to undertake. In the Preschool room we are supporting children in their self-care skills, getting them ready to start in reception and urge you, to really take time, with your children at home, putting coats and shoes on, getting dressed, getting changed also, especially if they have a toileting accident. These are all really important skills that when they are in a class of 30, with 2 staff, they will need. We have continued to develop fine motor and gross motor skills and listening and attention through group activities and stories as well as encouraging children to share their ideas, taking turns in conversations, and listening to others.

We have had a meeting with Mrs Claxton, North Hinksey Reception teacher, who is preparing to receive some of your children. About half the class will not have been at North Hinksey Preschool, so this will give the children opportunities to make new friendships. The school will be sharing information with you directly about starting school. If your child is going to a different school, please let us know if there is anything you need from us to support your child's transition.

Every year parent at this time of year start to worry if their child is ready for school but remember reception is still under the EYFS and there are lots of similarities with us. One of the things Mrs Claxton likes to remind

parents is children can concentrate for 1 minute for every year of their lives. She also likes to think of your 4-year-old child as 3 years and 12 months so she has realistic expectations. The first term of reception at North Hinksey is dedicated to allowing your child to settle in and get to know new friends and Teachers.

I'd love to share these two clips with you which for me really sums up the ways children are taught in reception. These clips have been produced by a teacher working in a school which was an Early Adopter School, which have been trialling the revised EYFS through the last year. Many of these things we already do with your children in Preschool.

Reading and Writing in reception: -

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=W69eQSLpa2M>

Maths in reception: -

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ow8vEmh8IA&feature=youtu.be>

**Collection and Drop Off...** The times allocated to families are to keep the number of families and children arriving together separate, as a mitigation to social distancing, so please can you arrive to drop off and collection at appropriate times. There are a couple of anomalies as we have families with children in the two separate groups, which we are accommodating to support families, however otherwise please can you stick to your times.

If anyone wants to talk or has any concerns, please get in touch [nhps.manager1@gmail.com](mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com) 01865 794287.

Take care

Ruth Vaughan

Setting Manager

[Nhps.manager1@gmail.com](mailto:Nhps.manager1@gmail.com)

Telephone 01865 794287