



PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE CLUBS NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back... Sorry I didn't write a Newsletter prior to half term, I was off work from the Wednesday before half term, as had family illness (Parents) and then had to self-isolate all over half term until last Friday, as many of you already know.

As you all know we are now in a second Lockdown and I just want to share a table that lists number of cases in Early Years settings to date. Sometimes I think in our lovely community we forget the full impact the virus is having on everyone's lives.

Week commencing	Number of reports
01/06/2020	0
08/06/2020	3
15/06/2020	8
22/06/2020	5
29/06/2020	8
06/07/2020	3
13/07/2020	8
20/07/2020	9
27/07/2020	23
03/08/2020	27
10/08/2020	27
17/08/2020	13
24/08/2020	13
31/08/2020	14
07/09/2020	34
14/09/2020	87
21/09/2020	170
28/09/2020	181
05/10/2020	233
12/10/2020	388
19/10/2020	496
26/10/2020	668

This is in part, the reason we are still being cautious as a setting, to enable us to stay open. This is taken from the gov website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reported-coronavirus-covid-19-cases-by-registered-early-years-and-childcare->

Since opening in September we have had 2 members of staff in Self isolation and 3 children have been taken for tests this week and numerous families have had periods of having to Self-isolate and have tests.

This week we have had a number of queries around children and families personal circumstances and as I am sure you all realise we are not at liberty to discuss other families with you however I will highlight some things around our intentions for the next 9 months.

As previously noted in October's Newsletter:

"We are now operating in two groups:- The Hive and the Preschool Room. This is to allow staff to remain consistent and to best support the different cohorts of children. There are mostly the youngest children in the Hive, although there are a few children in the Hive that will be going to School next year and our plan will be to move them after Christmas, which we will support with some transitioning activities."

We have had one child leave to go to another setting as their sibling was unable to gain a place at NH primary. We have another family moving away from the area.

In January we have new children starting with us. In the Hive we are able to have up to 8 with 2 qualified staff, in the room we can have 16 children with 2 qualified staff)n any given session, if we had more staff in theory we could have more children, however currently we feel it is wrong to employ more staff when we are trying to remain sustainable and keep the staff we have in their jobs and we are lucky to have an apprentice to support these staff especially with additional cleaning etc. My intention is to keep the children in their Cohorts so they remain as much as possible with the children that will be at school with them. In the past when children have been in a larger group and all their friends leave to go to school, it can be very difficult for the "remainers".

Since March we have lost 5 staff, the remaining have all received a reduction in salary, through furlough and through a loss of hours. Remember we lost 80% of our income from the After school club and Breakfast Club. We are still losing around £4k a month, which we are hoping will even out over the year, with children increasing their sessions and pay for afternoons, if they are only attending mornings, with additional children attending (supporting a continuity for September).

I would also like to share that we are no longer having breaks, staff receive no paid time for office work, meetings, planning, sourcing resources, training or research, but our staff as you know are a fantastic bunch, who are committed and loyal to your children and families and although as for all of us, feel uncertainty around our economic lives health and wellbeing, are grateful they have jobs (that they love) and we all strive to be the best and do the best job we can! I am grateful to staff for standing by our setting at such a tricky time.

Term Dates... This term will end on **Friday 18th December at 12.00 noon**, in line with **NH primary school as usual**. We will return **Tuesday January 5th 2021**, following an inset day

Illness... As always **Please don't send your child if they are not well**. Please don't give them Calpol and send them. If in doubt err on the side of caution. Staff becoming ill will make it difficult to remain open. Follow the guidance and we will too!

Christmas... Next Wednesday we are having a staff meeting and hopefully we will be able to share some Christmas plans. We won't sadly be able to have any visitors in Red coats and Black boots but we still intend to have some fun.

Flu vaccinations... This year it is more important than ever for children to get their flu vaccination, especially those aged two and three. Flu can be serious for young children and they can also spread it further increasing the risk to those who are frail or vulnerable and at risk of serious complications if they caught the flu. The flu vaccination for children is a nasal spray that is quick and painless and all you need to do is book an appointment with your local GP practice for your child to receive it. 5 reasons for you to get one [here](#).

Childhood in the Time of COVID...if you are interested in reading more about this, as I know it has been in the News this week following OFSTED highlighting the importance of Early Years Settings and Schools, this is a report written by the Children's Commissioner [here](#)

This Is Early Years Campaign... The Early Years Alliance has launched a new campaign to highlight the valuable role that early years providers, and particularly private and voluntary settings, play in their local communities.

The **#ThisIsEarlyYears** campaign aims to make the positive case for greater support for the early years sector ahead of the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review, when the government's spending plans for the coming years is due to be decided.

Underfunding

North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs is in the constituency of West Oxfordshire and Abingdon and this data is based on this constituency.

Since 2015, the number of early years providers in this local authority has **fallen by 286, a decrease of 27%**.

In 2019/2020 (the most recent figures available), private and voluntary (PVI) childcare providers in this area received, on average, **£4.12** per hour for three- and four-year-olds taking up funded childcare places - however, as this average figure includes supplements and SEN inclusion funding, many providers in this area will have received a lower rate than this. In comparison, the average funding rate for three- and four-year-olds given to Maintained Nursery Schools was £5.79.

Between 2017 and 2020, average PVI funding rates for three and four-year-olds in this local authority saw **a change of 0%**, while average funded rates for two-year-olds saw **a change of 0%**. In comparison the National Living Wage increased by **9.5%** over this period.

NB: The funding data above is taken from the Department for Education Early Years Benchmarking Tool. The percentage change in three- and four-year-old funding data has been adjusted for the factoring in of SEN Inclusion Funding in DfE PVI-level figures since 2018/2019. The data on provider closures is taken from Ofsted's Childcare Providers and Inspection releases.

What can you do?

If you are an **early years provider**, you can help support the sector by:

- [writing to your local MP](#) and calling for more financial support for the early years
- [telling us](#) at the Alliance about the great things your childcare setting does for us to use as part of our **#ThisIsEarlyYears** campaign
- tweeting your local MP and telling them about the work of your setting using the **#ThisIsEarlyYears** hashtag (you can find out who your local MP is [here](#) and their Twitter handle [here](#))

If you are a **parent**, you can help support the sector by:

- [writing to your local MP](#) and calling for more financial support for the early years
- tweeting your local MP and telling them about how your childcare provider has supported you and your child(ren) using the **#ThisIsEarlyYears** hashtag (you can find out who your local MP is [here](#) and their Twitter handle [here](#))

APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2021... Key dates when applying for infant or primary schools.

Key dates	Event
3 November 2020	Applications open.
15 January 2021	Closing date for applications.
16 April 2021	National offer day: look online, receive email and letters are sent out by second class post where needed. Last date to respond to offers.
4 May 2021	Last date to be added to the continued interest list for offers made 16 April. Last date for late applications, and changes of preference.
10 June 2021	Offer day for late applications made by 4 May. Last date to respond to offers on 10 June.
25 June 2021	Last date for change of preference for offers on 10 June Last date to be added to the continued interest list for offers made 10 June.
September 2021	Start of the school year.

Children start school in the September after their 4th Birthday. So if your child was born **1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 you will be applying for a school place from 3rd November.**

Please see more information here from Oxfordshire County Council:-

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school>

Because of Covid 19 I think you should be speaking to schools you are interested in applying to sooner rather than later so they can offer you some information to help you make your decision.

If you are interested in applying to North Hinksey Primary more information can be found here:-

<https://www.north-hinksey-school.org.uk/joining-the-school.html>

Lastly...I am sorry there is so much information in here, but they are important issues to address.

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

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