



## PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE CLUBS NEWSLETTER

**Welcome Back (for Monday)!....** I hope you have all managed to have a break from work or even just the routines of getting children to School Preschool.

Firstly, I'd like to welcome all our new families and their children and also welcome back those returning to us. Secondly, I like to thank my team that have been working hard alongside me to get ready to reopen!

**Staffing...** You may have seen adverts for the post of Assistant Manager and for an apprentice over the summer. I want to reassure you we are fully staffed and no longer looking for an Assistant Manager as our lovely Linda will be the Assistant Manager from this term. We are thrilled, as she has over 12 years experience working at North Hinksey Preschool, both with the children but more recently as our Administrator and during Covid, since March 2020 has been our acting Deputy, so she is well placed to carry out this role. We will be taking on an apprentice, which is something we like to do as a setting, helping to train the next generation of Early Years Practitioners. We will also be looking to recruit a Level 3 trained practitioner by January, as the number of children grow.

**Term Dates...** This term will end on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 3.00pm We will return after half term on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Extended days...** This term we are starting our extended day sessions, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Breakfast Club starts at 8.00 am and After Preschool Club is until 5.00pm  
The numbers are low on these days but we believe they will grow. We would be able to accommodate adhoc sessions this term so if you need to book a session, just let us know [northhinkseyccclubs@gmail.com](mailto:northhinkseyccclubs@gmail.com)

**Step 4 of the Road Map...** Here is the link to the government information for parents, in case you want to read it! <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

For us at Preschool there are a few changes:-

**No bubbles:-**We will consider ourselves to be no longer in a bubble, with staff being more fluid across the week, supporting each other and the children.

**Two groups:-** The children are still in the two groups but during the extended sessions they will all be together.

**One start/ Finish time:-** We now will only have one start and finish time, 9.00 am to drop off and then 3.00 for collection, therefore half days will be 12.00 finish or start.

**Entrance/ Exit:-** We will continue to use the small gate next to the big school gate, please follow the path to the corner of the building as drop off/ collection will be at this side gate. We ask you to avoid bringing bikes, scooters up to this point to avoid congestion. You can go back this way, this term or leave via the side gate, which would be best to avoid a bottle neck of families.

**Extended days:-** As we have some children starting in Breakfast club and staying after the preschool session there will be only one Key Person from your group at collection and drop off, along with either myself or Linda so you may not get a handover from your Key Person but we will pass on messages, or you can email or phone during the day.

**Transitions:-** I think the collection and drop offs will be pretty busy so please bear with us, as we really need to make these transitions as swift as possible as children could become distressed.

**Communications:-** If we need to talk to you during a session or about anything in more detail we would call you, email or make an appointment so we have enough time to talk to you in confidence.

We are hoping this term, now all staff are double jabbed and testing twice weekly (to be reviewed in September), we can be more confident and can offer more personal communications and meetings with you all.

**Masks:-** It is no longer a requirement for Parents/ Carers to wear masks at handovers, though it is a personal choice.

**Contingency Planning:-** All education and Childcare settings have been asked to devise a Contingency plan in case the cases of Covid rise and I will share this in due course, along with our Covid Policy updates and Risk Assessment.

**Positive cases/ Testing:-** As self-isolation is no longer a requirement for close contacts if you are under 18 years of age or you have been double jabbed it is feasible that a member of your household could be positive and your child could still attend Preschool HOWEVER we will require the child to have had a negative PCR test, though really please bear in mind, as we do *not* socially distance from the children or each other if the child does become positive, even if they are asymptomatic it is very likely we would quickly have an outbreak and need to close. We have staffing ratios to comply with and would therefore struggle if more than one member of staff are off and would need to close. I guess what I am really saying is, we ask you to be cautious as at the end of the day if we close it impacts on a lot of families. I know too that you may feel this is over cautious, however within our community we will have families that are clinically extremely vulnerable, unvaccinated people and although you may experience either mild or no symptoms someone else can become very ill or end up with long covid.

**Key Persons...**As a reminder, in the Hive the staff are Karen and Sharon, both qualified and experienced.

If your child is younger and in the Hive you will already of been allocated either Karen or Sharon, as a Key person. In the Preschool room we have Ali and Natalia, equally qualified and experienced, however in this group they share the role of Key Persons so either/ or will have responsibility for the children.

Then there is myself -Ruth (Setting Manager) and Linda (Assistant Manager), and both of us also are qualified and experienced, and do spend some time with both groups of the children, supporting the Key persons along side our roles.

Please if you have any questions, worries or concerns, either email or call us 01865 794287. We will endeavour to talk to you ASAP, please feel you can ask us anything! My role especially is to help you as parents. Within my role I am SENCO, Safeguarding Lead, Health and Safety Lead, I am also a parents and aim to support you all.

**Illness...**So usually this term would bring about coughs, colds, bugs etc to all of us, as new families join settings, so we would be expecting that anyway. **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. Our policy is if your child has "Sickness or Diahorrea" we ask for them to remain off for 48 hours from the last bout of anything coming out! Also if your child is given antibiotics or any new medication please allow 48 hours of having at it home before they attend.

Lastly it is imperative you let us know if your child has been ill, or has been to hospital/ seen by a GP during an absence such as holiday or weekend. This is so we have an up to date medical history in case of an emergency. Equally if some thing has happened at home, or your child has witnessed or experienced any changes or trauma, in their lives as this can alter their behaviour or demeanour and it is easier to support them if we know about their lives. Obviously these incidences would remain confidential on a need to know basis, unless there were safeguarding concerns.

## **Don't forget...Name Everything!**

**Packed lunches:** - please make sure the bag is named. Remember **NO** nuts, or nut products, cut up choke hazards (grapes tomato's etc), Healthy eating- refer to guidance on our website. Provide a named water bottle and don't send juice.

**Remember to provide:-** Nappies, wipes, and cream for the day and spare clothes including shoes if you can.

**No toys or comforters:-** from home please, this is your chance to keep those for home!

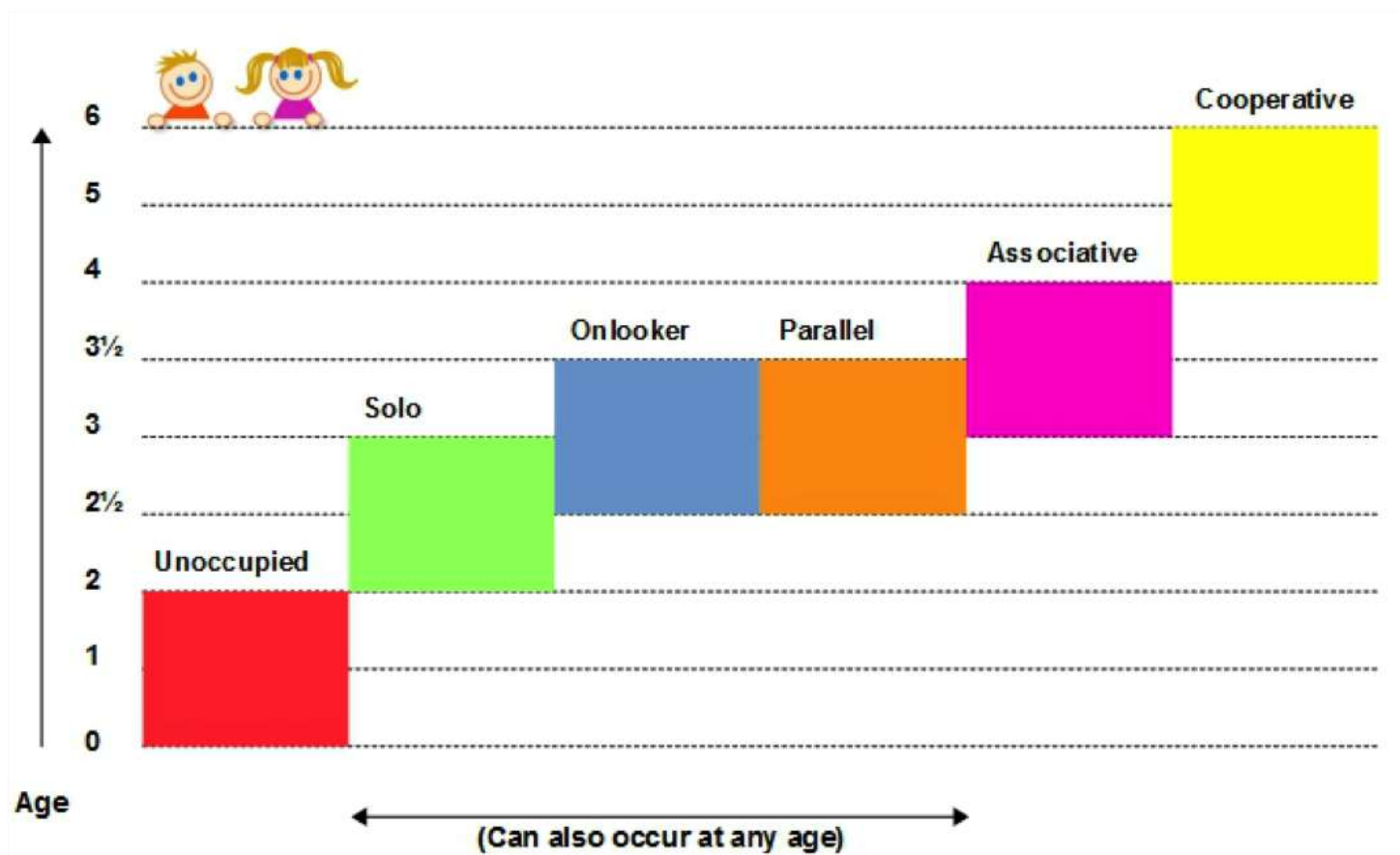
**Wellies:-** You can leave a pair with us, remember to provide weather appropriate clothing. Layers are good, as our windows will be open for ventilation all year!

## Lastly...

**New families...** I wanted to share with you some important aspects of Group Play for Children and how play is a natural mode of learning particularly for the youngest children.

### Types of play

Theories of play acknowledge that the play experience changes as a child grows and develops. Thus, individuals who participate in group play with children of different ages will have different expectations and may thus be expected to react to the experience in different ways. Sociologist Mildred Parten studied children's play in the 1930s, and the six phases of play she identified (see Figure 1.1) still provide practitioners with a useful means of describing and categorising different forms of play, as well as offering some useful evidence about a child's developmental progress. In Preschool and indeed in After school club practitioners observe these different stages of play.



Up to two years of age, 'unoccupied play' is largely isolated and sensory. At this time the child, who may often seem somewhat passive, is gathering important benchmark information and experiences which will later be deployed in more active play.

From around the age of two, young children begin to use 'solo play' as a form of entertainment. Even though they're in a group setting, they may appear unaware of other playmates.

Just before 3 'Onlooker play' commonly emerges. Children will observe others playing, and may talk about what is happening in the play, but make no effort to actively participate. 'Parallel play', usually occurs at much the same time as onlooker play, as a side-by-side activity which may involve mimicry and choosing similar toys. Though there is no communal engagement, this is an important precursor to fully interactive play.

From three, play becomes more overtly social as the child joins with others in 'associative play'. At this stage children engage, communicate, and begin the process of learning how to negotiate and get on with each other.

By four, children are usually ready to begin 'cooperative play' which can involve acting together as a team, showing deeper interest in their peers, striving towards a common goal, and joy of being social, with group initiatives defining late-stage early years children.

As with all elements of child development, these play phases can appear earlier or later, and as the above graphic also notes, some types of play may persist and recur at any age. Nevertheless, the important point is that any seemingly homogeneous preschool group engaging in group play together will almost certainly contain children whose play will be at different phases. Parten (1932)

Children's play is much more complicated than this and further models of Sociometric analysis and Social relationships within groups, of which you could read here <https://www.firstdiscoverers.co.uk/group-play-children/> if you are interested.

With the support of trained Practitioners' and adults, observing and tuning in the children's' needs, children within Early Year settings have opportunity to move through these types of play and be ready for co-operative learning. They hone their social skills and are able to become independent.

I apologise for the amount of information on here, and I am quite sure I will of missed something so as usual, if you have any concerns or would like to discuss anything further please feel free to contact me. Also for those of you who don't know me, I apologise now for any typo's, for which I am notorious! My mind does tend to move faster than my typing! I also will often answer queries on my phone!

Finally, we are excited to get to know you all and are looking forward to this term!

Ruth Vaughan

Setting Manager

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

Telephone 01865 794287

