



## PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE CLUBS NEWSLETTER

**First week...** Thank you to all of you for your patience. Especially at collection and drop off!

The children generally have had a great week and have been mostly settled.

**Collection/ Drop off/ Handovers...** It is challenging to get to speak to everyone, and during the day it is difficult to write things down, take photographs etc as we are trying to settle and get to know lots of new children.

Please be reassured if we were worried or struggling with your child, getting them to settle we will call you. If we need to tell you anything we will go out of our way to talk to you, however we cannot chat to everyone at every collection or drop off. We are also very conscious that some parents need to get off to work or to collect other children so ask that you quickly move along. If you come to Preschool by bike, it is **not** possible for you to bring it up the pathway, so we ask that you lock it up at the bottom, outside our gate, or use the school bike shed through the main driveway. I would hate to see a child injured by a bike falling on them in this narrow space.

It helps as well if just one parent drops off (if you can manage), this really is to make it easier for your child to separate from you.

Can we also please encourage your child to walk as we are not able to carry all children and it can be dangerous if a child is dropped, especially if they are upset and struggling. We would really, only pick them up, to keep them safe in this instance.

**Possessions...** You may have noticed staff trying to carry, bags, lunch boxes, water bottles etc and it would be really helpful if you could leave bags with clothes changes here. Then when wet things come home, just replace them. Our priority is keeping the children safe and having lots of things to carry does not support this.

**Labelling...** Staff have asked can you please label everything including shoes! The children will change their shoes for boots at various times of the day to play in sand, water, mud kitchen and they really need to be

able to do this independently (many of them can already) They need proper shoes/ or trainers (not clogs, open toed sandals, lace ups, baseball boots), that they can put on and off themselves (Velcro is best).

We have noticed some water bottles have already lost their names so please check the label is nice and clear.

**Medical conditions/ allergies/ health concerns...** Don't forget to keep us to date with any concerns there have been around any of these things. This is because in an emergency we would need to know.

**Routine...** The daily routine is roughly this... though as I am sure you can imagine working with Early Years children does not always go to plan!

**8.00-9.00 Breakfast Club-** children arrive (some days are very busy in breakfast club) so when you drop off at 9 we may already have around 13 children in the setting with some staff. That is why you may not see your Key person at drop off. Breakfast children have cereal or toast.

**9.00- Drop off-** The children line up at the fence and we walk across the playground following the yellow line. It really is helpful for everyone to be here at 9.00. Once in the children have free choice to play and settle with Key persons.

**9.30** we start to split a group of around 8-10 children to go to the "Hive" to have snack and join a focused activity. This could be a story, singing, physical movement (once children are settled and know us more we will introduce more sporty type activities/ yoga/ etc.

The children in the room also carry on playing etc and then both groups have fruit for snack. It is whole fruit such as tangerine, apple, pear, banana, peaches etc (seasonal fruit). Children also have milk and water.

**10.00 Free-flow** -After snack and activity time the children have free access to inside and outside. A range of things are out to play but water, sand etc are a constant!

**11.40-** We ask the children to help tidy the garden with us and then line up. All children then come in and we change wet/ dirty clothes etc refresh nappies (though these are also changed throughout the sessions). We take children that don't need changing to the Hive for stories, singing, dancing etc and the remaining children also do a small group activity until 11.55 when hands are washed, some children go home and the rest have lunch at 12.00.

**12.00-12.30 Lunchtime-** Children have staff with them whilst they eat and drink etc. We will share more information about lunch boxes, however have a small selection of things, fruit vegetables, starchy carbohydrate, yoghurt.. Please do not add sweets/ chocolate. Children also have their water bottles.

**Sleeps-** Some children then go to sleep in the Hive and the rest carry on playing/ activities/ interacting with Key Persons. This week as the weather has been extraordinary this has only taken place inside as we have no

shade and it is not safe to have the children outside. Hopefully next week the weather will be easy to cope with. Inside we have large fans that really help keep the children cool.

**2.40** – as in the morning we split up and then at 2.50 we ask the children that are staying to After school Club to go to the Hive with the staff staying so that the other children can get ready to go home.

**3.00- After preschool club**-After the other children have gone the children will have a play in the garden/ or room and then have snack (crackers, toast, fruit, cheese, cucumber etc milk and water) they then have a play etc and are collected before 5! Staff then do cleaning and then go home and lie down in a dark room for a while!!(Just joking obviously!).

**If your Child has been tired this may be why!  
They have been very busy...!**





Finally, if your child has been unsettled remember there is a lot for them to take in. They may have been with you since they were born or they may be returning to Preschool, however they have been away for 7 weeks. They all have to get used to new adults, new children, new rooms, resources and new routines! All of these things are exhausting. It takes a lot of time for young children to process things (and some adults too!), so don't worry if your child is finding some things tricky right now. If you are worried speak to us, there are not many things we have not experienced, as a collective group of Mums, and experienced practitioners.

Look forward to seeing you next week!

Best wishes

Ruth

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