

Late Autumn Term Newsletter 2021

Covid-19 updates and procedures over the Christmas break

Thank you to all our parents and families for been extremely understanding as to why we have not lifted or changed any of our Covid restrictions and to keep existing measures in place since returning in September 2021. We feel that by being over cautious we can keep everyone safe and help prevent Covid from affecting the setting that best we can. Everyone has been very proactive in taking tests and self-isolating where necessary, along with keeping children at home if they are feeling generally unwell.

We would like to please remind everyone to continue to ask parents and family members to wear masks when dropping off and collecting children.

Please note the information below regarding Covid-19 when we first break up for Christmas.

Close contacts in early years settings are now being identified by NHS Test. However, we would be grateful if you could still inform us if your child does develop Covid-19 symptoms or receives a positive covid-19 result.

Please report positive covid-19 results to NHS TEST and Trace firstly and then to me via the preschool phone number (07964436779) if your child develops symptoms within 2 days from their last day at preschool. If you are unsure, please call me.

What this should mean is that by Monday 20th December (at the latest for those who need to be in on Friday 17th December), there should be no Test and Trace contacts at all relating to the setting. So, if NHS Test a Trace have not contacted you by then, there should be no need to isolate via a connection to our setting.

The preschool phone will be forwarded to my phone from the evening of Friday 17th until Monday 20th December, please do not text as these will not come through. **Phone calls only will come through to me.** Please only use this for Covid related concerns/ reporting. If you do need to speak with me about any Covid concerns please do contact me, I am always happy to speak with you.

Following on from this, please ensure you remain vigilant regarding symptoms, isolating, testing over the Christmas break. I will be back at work from Tuesday 4th January so please report any positive cases that have occurred after Monday 20th then. If you are unsure, please do not attend the setting until you have spoken with me.

If anyone has any queries about the above, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

We are all hoping that we will not have any form of National announcements or lockdown restrictions after the Christmas holiday period. If we receive any further guidance over the holiday period I will send out an email to keep everyone updated.

Staff are continuing to test twice weekly. Whilst the preschool is closed for half term staff are required to test before returning to the setting after the Christmas break.

Christmas party



Thank you to everyone who made our Christmas party, we all had a great time! They enjoyed lots of party games and were amazed that Santa managed a visit whilst they were outside investigating a jingling sound! Their little faces were a picture when they returned inside and saw the presents under the tree and noticed the letter and photos left by Santa! We continued to have party games and festive fun throughout this week for those who couldn't make the party 😊

Tapestry

The weekly updates are taking more time than the Preschool room expected. The preschool staff are going to try a new approach when we return from the Christmas holidays. They will be posting pictures as and when they can until they can find a consistent way that doesn't take them away from the children for long periods of time but keeps parents informed of their children's time spent at preschool.

Suitable Clothing

Please continue to make sure your child has a hat, a suitable waterproof coat, and wellies.



Invoices

Invoices for early spring term 2022 will be sent out this week. If you do not receive one, please let me know. These are due at your child's first session back in the term. We would still prefer contactless payments via BACs but if you need to pay via cash or cheque then please let me know so we can arrange this.

The bank account details are at the bottom of your invoices.

If you have any queries regarding your invoice, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are finding it difficult to pay your invoice, then please speak with me and we can arrange a payment plan and/or changing your hours to make this more manageable.

30-hour codes- Extended entitlement

Please continue to reconfirm your 30-hour codes, these enable you to access your funded hours. This is only for the families who access the extended entitlement (30 hours). All other funding is claimed by the setting.

Parental Agreements

Thank you to everyone for getting these back to me. I still have a few that need bringing in so please let me know if you need another copy. They are an important document as this is how I claim the funded hours for your child. These forms are for children who claim the funded hours only.

Primary School Applications- September 2022 start

If your child is due to start Primary school next year (September 2022) then please ensure that you have applied before the deadline of **15th January 2022**. The application form is now available to complete online. I recommend getting this sent off sooner rather than later, especially as it can become forgotten over the festive period! If you are unsure of which school, you would like your child to attend then please don't hesitate to contact the schools to arrange visits (Covid-19 restrictions applicable).

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/apply-place-primary-or-secondary-school>

Children's hours

Please inform me by **Friday 7th January 2022** if you would like to change your child's hours for late spring term 2022. This date is for amending hours starting Monday 28th February (the start of late spring term). Funded hours cannot be amended as they are claimed at the start of each full term i.e. January, April and September.

Early spring term hours (4th January- 18th February) cannot be changed now as they are already staffed to the required ratios.

Requests after this date cannot be changed until Summer Term.

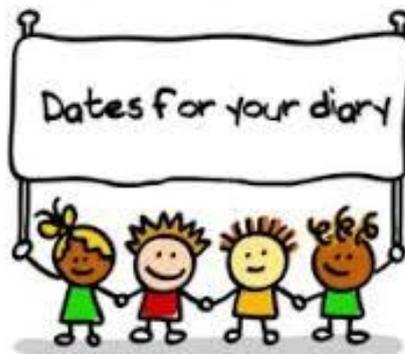
Staff

Unfortunately, we will be saying goodbye to Annie-Rose after the holidays as she has found a permanent job, her last day will be January 14th. We are looking to recruit another member of staff so will keep everyone updated.

Thank You 😊

- We would like to say a big thank you to one of our parents, **Warren at WJS Electrics** who kindly repaired our faulty light after having a little leak after the storm.
- We would also like to thank the members from **The shed** that kindly made a donation which we chose to use for the Christmas Party and to put towards some new resources.
- Thank you to the McDonald Family who kindly took very good care of our Fish over the summer. The fish enjoyed it that much they have only recently returned... the children have loved having them back!
- Thank you to all that generously donated raffle prizes and took part in our Christmas fundraisers we have raised £102 to put towards some new pushchairs and equipment to go on walks and explore the village.

Well done to all those whose name got drawn out for the raffle and Name the Bear – Mistletoe!



We break up for Christmas Friday 17th December 2019

Early Spring Term- Tuesday 5th January 2022-Friday 18th February 2022

Closed for training day- **Tuesday 4th January 2022** (Monday 3rd January is a Bank Holiday)

Friday 7th January- Last chance to change hours for Late Spring Term 2022

Late spring term- Monday 28th February 2022-Friday 8th March 2022

Early Summer term- Tuesday 26th April 2022- Friday 27th May 2022

Closed for training day- Monday 25th April 2022

Closed for Bank Holiday- Monday 2nd May 2022



We hope you all have a lovely Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Thank you again for your support

Best wishes,

Megan.