

# Summer Term Newsletter 2021

## Betty Lewis Nursery School Ltd



We hope you are all looking forward to the Easter Break! We are looking forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for an exciting Summer Term at Betty Lewis!

**As Covid restrictions start to relax, we will be asking children to bring their bags into pre-school, finding their peg in the morning and starting to take responsibility for their own belongings.**

We are revising the start time for Ladybird children, so ALL children start pre-school at the same time. Drop off is therefore 9.10am for all children, with morning sessions finishing at 12.10pm, lunch at 12.40pm and afternoon pick ups at 2.10pm and 2.40pm.

**As we are sure a lot of you are aware, the Early Years Sector is seriously under-funded, and with the introduction of 30 hours 4 years ago this has further stretched settings. Settings are not allowed to apply any charges or top-up fees, so the only source of revenue is from government funding. This makes it very difficult to manage effectively and meet Ofsted, Legal and KCC obligations as well as all the extra demands that a creating a Covid secure workplace has placed upon us. We rely heavily on the good nature of our staff who constantly work above and beyond and now increasingly, we need to rely on voluntary contributions from parents. These are detailed on termly invoices and enable us to continue to provide the resources we need for the children, to provide them with the very best experiences. If any parents feel they would like to contribute on a more practical level, then we would be grateful for any donations of paper, card, fruit / vegetables for our daily snack.**

We are planning to work in the garden over the Easter Break to update resources and equipment ready for the children to enjoy in the Summer months. We are hoping that parents might be able to help us source some of the following items:

- Chalk
- Empty 'Method' spray cleaning bottles
- Guttering
- Footballs
- Large electrical reels (empty! – can be used as small tables in the garden)
- Tyres
- Crates

We would love the children to decorate a tin can with paint and any other embellishments over the Easter break, so they can be hung in the trees to brighten up the garden, replacing the ones completed by pre-school children last year. We have been collecting them, so please feel free to pick one up from us to transform. It will hopefully be a nice activity to complete with your children over the Easter break!

### Term Dates

This term has been busy with Mother's Day and Easter activities. Term 4 finishes on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March

**Term 5: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

**Bank Holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Term 6: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

### Children's Development

Key persons will be summarising your child's development again in June by completing the 'My Unique Transition' forms, ready for their transition to either the pre-school room, or primary school.

Learning Journey files will be sent home in June for Ladybirds, and in July for Dragonflies / Caterpillars as they will become yours to keep.

Key workers will also be inviting you in for a meeting to discuss your child's transition (covid restrictions permitting). Key workers will advise you of a date and time during W/C 21<sup>st</sup> June. We have 32 of these meetings to complete so where possible, please make every effort to attend on the date and time stated.

### Key Group Plans

#### Ladybird Group

This term we will be looking at Seasons, talking about Summer and growing some sunflowers.



We will be focussing on transition to the pre-school room in preparation for September, spending some time with the Caterpillar and Dragonfly teachers, becoming more independent in self-care, and putting coats and shoes on ourselves.

#### Caterpillar and Dragonfly Group

Next terms topic will be planets, followed by lifecycles/minibeasts.



Any items / books related to our topic can be bought into school and will be shown during show and tell.

Phonics and number activities will be covered each day, and we will be continuing to talk about our feelings, respecting each other, good manners and sharing.

We will be focussing a lot on transition in the second half of the term. Reception teachers from the local primary schools will be coming out to visit the children and see them in the pre-school environment prior to children starting transition events at their primary school (Covid permitting).

Please can all parents confirm their Primary school offer so we can work with reception school teachers on transition sessions at the setting.

We will be starting PE sessions in Term 6, so children will need a drawstring style bag with shorts / t-shirt and plimsols / trainers so we can practice getting changed. Please ensure ALL items are labelled!

Please can parents also inform us of booked holiday dates during the summer term so we can make sure parents / children do not miss any important events!

Things to note.....

- **Please can all children bring in a water bottle daily. These needs to be named with a screwable lid so it can be re-filled during the day**
- Please can all outdoor clothes be CLEARLY NAMED, including shoes!
- **Sun cream needs to be applied BEFORE the children start pre-school. We can re-apply before the start of the afternoon session, or if it is exceptionally hot, but as you can imagine, doing this for 40 children is very time consuming! Please ensure bottles / tubes are named**
- Please remember to pack a sun hat for your child every day. The great British Summer can take us by surprise on some days!
- **Please can you ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Children may needs a light jacket / cardigan / hoodie, even if the forecast is for warm weather. We access the outdoors from 9.30am and it can be chilly at the start of the session**
- Please could we ask that every child has a named pair of wellies for outdoor play, and that these are left at school so they are always available for poor weather conditions
- **Important Safety Information**  
**Please note that the climbing frame must not be accessed by children without adult supervision. We therefore ask that children do not use it outside of nursery hours i.e. at pick up and drop off times. The climbing frame must NOT be used by any child under the age of 3.**

**We operate a strict adult : child ratio of 1:4 when children are climbing during nursery hours.**

- Staff Training Update: Staff have accessed a wide range of training – some statutory and some for personal development: Little worriers to little Warrior, basic first aid, intensive interaction, personalised plan writing and target setting, and 2 staff have completed their 12 hour paediatric first aid qualification.
- **Please continue to park responsibly taking care not to block cars in the car park. Please consider parking in the high street, surrounding roads or behind Tesco's and make the short walk to nursery. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter**
- As ever, please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have any queries or questions!

Thank you for all your on-going support

**Michelle, Julie and all of the Betty Lewis Staff Team**



**Key Dates for Summer Term:**

- **June**  
Parent Questionnaire – your feedback and comments are important to us in improving our provision and we care what you think! We will be sending this out in Term 6.
- **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**  
Last day of term. Pre-school finishes at 12.10pm for Ladybirds.

Leavers party for all Caterpillars and Dragonflies and parents / carers - more details to follow!