



# December Newsletter



## Dates

### Autumn Term

Autumn 2

Monday 2nd November - Friday 11th December 2020 (12:15pm finish)

### Spring Term

Spring 1

INSET DAYS - Monday 4th January 2021

Tuesday 5th January to Friday 12th February 2020

HALF TERM - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2021

Spring 2

INSET DAYS - Monday 22nd February 2021

Tuesday 23rd February - Wednesday 31st March 2021

### Summer Term

Summer 1

INSET DAYS - Monday 19th April 2021

Tuesday 20th April 28th to Friday 28th May 2021

3rd May BANK HOLIDAY

HALF TERM - Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2021

Summer 2

Monday 7th June to Friday 16th July 2021

This equates to 37 weeks and 2 days, which is 3 days less than the funded 38 weeks. If you have any queries, please come and see us. Please note that you are not charged for bank holidays and INSET DAYS.

## Reminders

As we prepare to exit our second lockdown, please can you all remember to still adhere to the measures put in place...

- ❖ Please wear a mask at drop off and pick up.
- ❖ Please make sure that you stand behind the line and not come right up to the door.
- ❖ Do not bring your child in if they have any **ONE** of the following symptoms, a persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste and smell.

- ❖ No extra unnecessary belongings should be brought in. Please only bring in **ONE** coat, your child needs to wear the one to preschool that you would like them to wear outside at Preschool.
- ❖ Please remember that only **ONE** person from each household should be collecting. Families are not meant to be mixing unless they are part of the child's 'bubble'.

As always if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea then they need to be at home for 48 hours from the last bout; and we can not accept children who have been given Calpol or other pain relieving medication.

### **Tapestry**

Our new way of observing seems to be going well and it is giving us a chance to get some really in-depth observations of the children. Please remember to keep logging into Tapestry to see your child's observations and any feedback would be most welcome.

### **Christmas Production**

It is with huge sadness that we will be unable to hold a Christmas production for families to attend. However, we will be striving to make Christmas special for the children. On the last week on term we are planning to hold a party or two to celebrate the end of term. This will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. If your child has a Christmas jumper please can they wear it on those days. We are also hoping to send you all, via Tapestry, a little Christmas Choir so look out for that!

### **Changing hours**

We will shortly be sending out Spring 2021 funding forms. As you are all aware we have had to slightly alter our opening times and we

are now a 20 hour setting. Please can you make sure that you have checked with us any changes that you might like to make so that we can double check our availability for spaces, as soon as you can. If you would like to find out more information about our other setting in Ash or go for a look around, just let us know.

Don't forget that if you are asked to revalidate your 30 -hour code to make sure that you do it, as if you don't it won't be valid for the forth coming term. The Government usually send out a few email reminders, but we are unable to do this for you.

### Suitable clothing

Winter is now definitely upon us and the weather is turning a little chilly and wet. Please can you ensure that your child has a pair of wellies at preschool for every day that they attend, as well as a change of clothes that fit and are appropriate to the weather. They also need a warm coat, hat, and gloves. We aim to go out twice a week, sometimes to the woods and sometimes to the park and the children will enjoy it so much more if they are warm and dry. On that note please also make sure that all of their clothing is clearly named and that your child knows where it is, in order that they can get it themselves.

### Lunches

We have become aware that the amount of food the children have in their lunchboxes seems to be increasing. When the children go to school, they will only be given a limited amount of time to eat lunch, so it is worth getting them into good habits now. So here are a few pointers to help your child develop good habits for life.

1. A healthy lunchbox should contain the following:

A carbohydrate for energy this could be pasta, rice, crackers or some kind of sandwich etc. Remember your child is only small, they may only be able to eat a sandwich made with one slice of bread. The filling should be either protein or dairy based. Try to steer clear of always giving jam and if you give chocolate spread please ensure that it doesn't contain nuts.

2. A piece of fruit or vegetable...anything goes fresh, dried or pickled!

3. A yogurt...only one though, they have a lot of sugar in!

4. Either a small handful of crisps (children struggle to eat a whole bag) or a couple of biscuits.

The children will only have eaten snack a couple of hours earlier, so this will usually be more than enough to fill them up.

### School Places

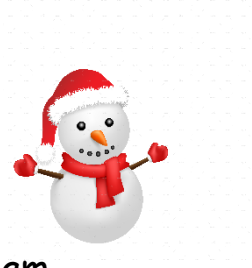
The time for applying for your child's school place is now upon us for the parents of our 3 and 4 year olds, January is the deadline.

Schools aren't able to hold open mornings, but most have a virtual tour on their website, if they don't we suggest that you contact them to find out what procedures they have in place. It is also really important that when filling in your form, you give as many choices as they ask for, otherwise it means that should you not get your first choice then the council can place you anywhere. This is the website address of the Surrey application website that will guide you through the process. Application dates open from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 and close 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant/apply>

If you have any queries or questions no matter how small they may seem, please come and ask and speak to us. Times are very challenging, and we will support you as much as we can. Our working

hours are between 7am and 6pm and we will endeavour to respond to your emails/phone calls within this time.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy Christmas  
and a happy New Year,



Shamira and Claire and the Totterdown Team