



Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Newsletter - Spring Term 1 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Please read it to find out what's lined up for next term, as well as updates from some of the team.

We have been so proud of all the children this term. It is great to see the children developing friendships and connections with our team. A highlight for us was the Christmas Concert - we hope you have enjoyed the videos of each class on Tapestry.

Thank you for the Christmas cards and gifts that you've sent in, they are very much appreciated.

We wish you a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to seeing you in when we reopen on 3rd January 2024.

Kind regards

Amanda Sanders, Pre-School Manager

Dates for your Diary

Event	Dates 2024
Pre-School re-opens	Wednesday 3 rd January
Parents & Carers Partnership Working	Saturday 10 th February. Details to follow
February Half Term	Monday 19 th February - Friday 23 rd February
February Holiday Club	Monday 19 th February - Friday 23 rd February
Parents Evening/Parents Forum	Tuesday 5 th & Wednesday 6 th March. Details to follow
Mother's Day Afternoon Tea	Saturday 9 th March. Details to follow
Easter Fete	TBC
Easter Holiday	Friday 29 th March - Friday 12 th April
Easter Holiday Club	Tuesday 2 nd April - Friday 5 th April
Stay & Play	Monday 22 nd April - Friday 26 th April
May Half Term	Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May
Dads' Breakfast	Saturday 15 th June. Details to follow
Transitions to School	TBC
Stay & Play	Monday 24 th June - Friday 28 th June
Sports Day	Friday 5 th July - TBC
Leavers' Party	Tuesday 16 th July - TBC
Last Day of Term	Friday 19 th July
Summer Holiday Club	w/c Monday 22 nd July w/c Monday 29 th July w/c Monday 5 th August



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Staff News

The setting has now completed the 'Level 4 Award in Early Years Emotional Wellbeing'. We are using our learnings to enhance the way we support children, their parents and carers, and our staff.

Earlier this term, Emma C sadly left us, due to personal reasons. She adored her key children and was sorry not to be able to spend the rest of the year with them and wishes you all the best for the future.

Kirsty has been helping us with Lunch Time cover for a few weeks, before starting her new role as a lower school teacher next month. Good luck Kirsty and Emma!

General News

Fundraising:

Our Fundraising Committee put together a magical Christmas Bazaar for our children and the wider community. We give a massive thanks to the Committee and to you all for selling raffle tickets and for coming on the day. Together, we raised an astonishing £2,194.14! These funds will go towards the installation of an air-con system, which we hope to install later in the year.

You also raised the following amounts for other important charities:

- Children in Need: £21.50
- Diabetes Day: £17.57
- Christmas Jumper day: £10.00

We are boosting our fundraising efforts further this year by holding the December and February Holiday Clubs, and we will start to plan an Easter Fete in the new year.

To join the Committee and help with future fundraising events, please contact fundraising@ladybirdpre-school.org.uk.

Lottery Funding / Grants:

Unfortunately, we were unable to secure funding from the lottery grant, who are looking for applications that serve a wider community.

We were lucky enough to secure a place in Flitwick Tesco's Blue Token scheme again, which will raise money for sensory and wellbeing resources. Please support us in mid-January 2024 by picking up blue tokens each time you visit. If we gain the most tokens, we could win £1,500!



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Next Projects: We hope to install air conditioning throughout the building, using funds raised at the Christmas Bazaar, December and February holiday clubs and other ad hoc fundraising initiatives in the Spring term. We will let you know when we are in a position to do the works. Once we have achieved this goal, we will raise money for a new safety access ramp.

Parents' Forum: During the Parents Evening in March 2024, we aim to bring in outside professionals to provide information on the following areas:

- Benefits/Funding Support Information
- Oral Health Support
- Wellbeing Support
- Childrens Service Information and what they offer
- BRIEF Team Information and what they can support with
- Central Beds Early Years Advisor Teacher
- Stopping Smoking support

Reminders

Starting school in September 2024?

Please note the deadline for application submission is 15th January 2024. For more info please see here:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions/496/apply_for_a_new_lower_or_primary_school_place

The Daily Routine:

Our daily routine is planned to the minute, to allow children to benefit from all we have to offer, including phonics, maths, snack, the adult-lead activity, active wellbeing, mindfulness etc. Please help us to deliver the curriculum and not disrupt other children's learning by ensuring that your child arrives for their start time (i.e. 8.50am for the morning session and 12.20pm for the afternoon session) and stays until the end (i.e. 11.50pm / 12.20pm / 3.20pm). Sticking to our arrival and collection times is good practice for school, too!

Absence reporting:

If you claim funding for your child's hours, we ask that your child attends regularly, unless they are poorly, on holiday, or you have another commitment. Central Beds Council ask that we let them know of any regular absences, and may remove funding in certain cases.



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We also need to track absences as part of our safeguarding obligations, so if your child is absent, please let us know the reason by emailing admin@ladybirdpre-school.org.uk. Thank you.

February/Easter/Summer 2024 Holiday Clubs:

Holiday Club is open to children from 3 - 7 years of age. Ladybird staff run activities throughout the day, and the children can unwind in front of a movie in the afternoon.

If you have not yet done so, please book your space here:

- February: <https://forms.gle/9NugzUcRSHd9ymVW9>
- Easter: <https://forms.gle/EQhonJJ761XX51fV7>
- Summer: <https://forms.gle/x9tpukX7z8WGNDYYA>

Parents and Carers' Notice Board: Please take time to look at the Notice Board and leave any messages in the message box, which is changed daily. We are always looking to improve the Pre-School and any ideas will help support your child's environment.

Nappies: If your child is in nappies/Pull Ups, please ensure you have spares in your child's bag. Alternatively, there is a charge of £1 per nappy/Pull Up if you need to use our resources.

Boot Bags: All children are required to have a non-plastic boot bag. We are happy for you to bring wellie boots in for each Forest School session and take home afterwards, but unfortunately, children with no boots will not be able to attend Forest School. One of our curriculum goals is for children to get ready independently for Forest School, so wellie boots in a bag will help with this.

Outdoor clothing: Please ensure that your child has warm outdoor clothing / coat. Thin raincoats are not suitable during the cold weather, especially during Forest School. Children with unsuitable clothing/coats will need to remain inside and not be able to attend Forest School. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Staff Updates

Mindfulness and Well-being:

The children continue to enjoy our active wellbeing and mindfulness sessions during the day. They love having a dance party, especially if Freeze Dance is in the picture! The children are beginning to understand why it is important to be active and keep up with personal hygiene. They are also beginning to understand the importance of calm down



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time and why we need to relax sometimes. They are doing very well, and I hope they continue to enjoy!

Your Well-being: We are passionate about well-being at Ladybird and would like to share contacts and numbers for you to use if you need support.

- Anxiety UK - 03444 775 774 (helpline)
- Beat - 0808 801 0677 (Eating disorder advice)
- CALM - 0800 58 58 58
- No Panic - 0300 7729844
- www.mind.org.uk for other advice and contacts.

Central Beds Council provide emotional wellbeing workshops, free of charge. See attachments for more information.

Jade, Well-being Lead

Oral Health/Health & Self-Care

At Ladybirds we are very passionate about keeping our children and staff happy and healthy. One of the ways we do this is promoting healthy eating and oral health.

Tooth decay is a rising problem in children under 5 and we want to help tackle this issue! Please see attached a sticker chart to use at home to help with toothbrushing.

For a 2 minute song to listen to whilst brushing your teeth, click here:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=the+tooth+brudhing+song&mid=B288E92F058D5AB8CB95B288E92F058D5AB8CB95&FORM=VIRE>

Please read our Healthy Eating and Lunch Cub Guidelines document here:

<https://ladybirdpre-school.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Healthy-Eating-and-lunch-Club-guidelines-Dec-23.pdf> for reminders about our Lunch Club and tips about how to provide tasty, healthy lunches for your child. We suggest that children have a sandwich (or similar i.e. wrap/pitta etc) or a small portion of pasta, a portion of fruit and/or veg, a yogurt or block of cheese and a healthy treat such as a Soren bar or mini cheddars. We thank you for your continued support with supporting our healthy setting policies and procedures!

Jade, PANCO Lead

Forest School:

We have had lots of fun exploring Forest School this term and are adapting to the colder weather. Please keep your child warm next term with plenty of layers e.g. a scarf, hat, and if you already have waterproof gloves, please send them in with your



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child on Forest School days, although we do have some pairs here too. As always thanks for your support. We look forward to many more adventures in the new year!

Laura, Forest School Teacher

Phonics sessions:

I am really pleased with how well the children have taken to Phonics this term. They have sang, sang and sang all the songs relating to the letter of the week, and excitedly wait to take part in the daily activities and the writing, drawing and colouring extension tasks. The children have started to notice letters whilst playing in the setting, forming the letters freely and are also starting to recognise the initial sounds in many words.

Next term we will start to look at the next set of letters, k c e h r m and d. Please ensure that all Show and Tell items begin with the letter of the week and that they are also small enough to fit in the trays. See our Planning attached for more information. We love to see if you have been up to anything exciting at home learning or just out exploring. Please remember to upload these onto Tapestry, so we can share with all our friends at Circle Time. If you need any help with how to upload please do ask.

Tiffany, Phonics Lead

Fees and funding:

Thanks for returning your completed Spring term funding forms (Parent and Carer Agreement forms) to the setting. You need to do this, even if you are only claiming for the 15 hours of "universal" funding.

Reminders for existing 30 hour funded parents/carers

Please remember to reconfirm your 30-hour code before 31st December 2023, to ensure their code remains eligible for the Spring term. You must check your childcare account regularly or approximately every 3 months to make sure that your code is up-to-date and valid. Some parents/carers get less than 3 months to reconfirm the code, so it is important that you make a note of the deadline date.

Your invoice dates for the Spring term are:

2023 - 2024 Invoice dates			
Term payable	Invoice period	Invoice date, w/c:	Due date
Spring 1	03/01/24 - 16/02/24	15/01/2024	09/02/2024
Spring 2	26/02/24 - 28/03/24	26/02/2024	22/03/2024

Victoria, Admin Manager



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January/February Birthdays 2024:

- **Happy 4th Birthday:** Aayla, Dougie, Ella W, Issac, Kyan, Lenny, Patrick, Violet
- **Staff Birthday:** Tiffany/Mandy/Phoebe/Tasha

Wanted

We are looking for donations of old towels to use outside. Thank you.

Facebook:

Please follow the Ladybird Forest Pre-School page on Facebook. You'll see photos of the Pre-School activities and recent events. Thank you!

Website: Do look at our website for information about the Pre-School.

Community News

Tell Central Bedfordshire Council about your Safety Concerns here:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/43/community_safety/158/safer_centra_l_community_safety_partnership

