



Little Lambs Pre-School Centre

Parents Termly Newsletter - Spring 2017

Welcome!



We extend a special welcome to all new children and parents as we start our Spring term.

We hope all our Little Lambs had a lovely Christmas and we wish you a Happy New Year. For those of you who found Christmas difficult this year for lots of reasons we pray God's blessing on you for 2017.

A special welcome to the new children and parents who start with us this term, and we pray your time with us will be very enjoyable.

The first few weeks are very much a settling in process and if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to talk to us.

The offering at our Little Lambs Nativity Service last term was £228.46 and it was a

privilege to send this money to Childline.

We hope you will enjoy watching the Nativity on DVD and we say a special "Thank you" to Gary and Maureen Leonard for all their hard work in producing the masters.

It was lovely to spend time with the afternoon parents as we celebrated Christmas, and next Christmas it will be some of your little ones who take part in the Nativity Service.

We would like to thank you for your good wishes, cards and presents that were given to us for Christmas - your kindness is very much appreciated.

**Little Lambs
Pre-School Centre**

Issue 30

Spring Term 2017

We are looking forward to a wonderful Spring Term with you and your children, with lots of lovely things planned. Best wishes,

Sandra and Team



Important Dates for your Diary

Monday 23rd Jan	Library visit for am children - Sunshine Room
Monday 6th February	Library visit for am children - Butterfly Room
Monday 13th February	Library visit for am children - Rainbow Room
Tuesday 14th February	Letters & Sounds session for parents - 10.15—11.15am & 2.00 - 3.00pm.
Thursday 16th Feb	Closed - INSET
Friday 17th Feb	Closed am - INSET
Mon 20th - Fri 24th Feb incl.	Half Term Holiday
Monday 27th Feb	Closed - INSET Day
Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day - bring a favourite book to share - both am & pm
Monday & Tuesday 13th & 14th Mar	Eve Shepherd, photographer, will be in Nursery for morning AND afternoon sessions. Brothers and sisters are welcome for photographs but please could you book a time slot for bringing them into pre-school. Eve is willing to take bookings early before school if required. If you don't usually do a Monday or Tuesday you may like to book in for an extra session, or just pop in for the photo, but either way, you need to inform Mal or San. Thank you.
Thursday 16th March	5.00pm — 9.00pm Informal Parents Evening for all children Please note nursery will finish at 3.00pm (See back page.)
Thursday 23rd March	Afternoon Children's Mother's Day Service - invitations will be sent
Friday 24th March	Morning Children's Mother's Day Service - invitations will be sent
Tuesday 4th April	Last sessions at Lambs this term for am & pm children
Wednesday 5th April	End of term Easter Celebrations for all children including Easter bonnet parade, bike ride and sponsored walk around Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge to raise money towards new equipment & to replace much-loved, well-worn toys!
Thu 6th - Fri 21st Apr incl.	Easter Holidays
Mon 24th April	Summer Term Starts—staff
Tue 25th April	Summer Term Starts—children

Please see continuation of advanced dates on the back page

One further training day to be arranged

Inside this issue:

Birthdays	2
Change of address	2
Collection of Children	2
Healthy Snacks	2
Sickness & Holidays	2
Spring Focus	2
Trips & Specials	2
Collection arrangements/Times	3
Emergency Evacuation Policy	3
Fees	3
Lending Library	3
Mobile Phones	3
Music Time	3
Name Recognition	3
Parking	3
Toys	3
Useful Resources	3
Advance Dates for next term	4
Communication On Line	4
Information Sharing	4
Letters, notices and reports	4
Parents Evenings	4
Snow Watch	4
And Finally	4



We begin our term by focusing on our favourite stories starting with *The Gruffalo* and exploring Winter! In the second half of the term we will look at how to keep ourselves healthy, Spring and celebrate Easter. Much of our planning follows children's ideas on a daily basis and their numeracy and literacy skills are enhanced by their individual interests.

As the outdoors is simply an extension of our curriculum here at Little Lambs, we would ask you to bring suitable clothing each day to allow your child to benefit from all-weather experiences as the opportunities arise. Outdoors is full of interesting and fascinating experiences where deep-level learning can take place on a daily basis.

Healthy Snacks at Café Time

We would like to remind parents of **grant-funded children ONLY** that a contribution of £1.25 a week is payable for a lovely variety of daily healthy snacks and fruit. Please see noticeboard or online notices for daily menus.

We would be grateful if the amounts payable (**£7.50 for 5th Jan - 15th Feb**) could be paid during the next two weeks.

Please note, unlike schools, we do not receive a free fruit allowance from the government.



Change of Address & Contact Numbers

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you let us know immediately of any change of address, telephone or mobile contact details. Forms are available in nursery entrance for you to complete.

Sickness, Holidays & other absences

PLEASE make sure that you let us know as early as possible that day if your child will not be attending Pre-School for any reason.

This is an important requirement for all parents and carers.

If you have booked a holiday or a day out, please also let us know in advance by completing a Holiday Form.

It saves us much worry and concern!



Birthdays

Please note change - we have decided that children's birthdays will be celebrated within the sessions at Little Lambs. We would encourage parents no longer to bring in sweets and cakes as we feel this puts people under unnecessary pressure to buy for all children at an already expensive time. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Collection of Children

- Please note that if it is not yourself collecting your child, arrangements have to be made with Pre-School staff as to who will be collecting, and preferably, a password given. Please try not to be late in collecting your child, as this can be upsetting for the child, and also these are busy times to set up for the afternoon and to clear up at the end of a day. Obviously, in the event of an emergency, children are always cared for by staff until collection is possible, but please contact Nursery to let us know that there will be a delay, if at all possible.
- An important reminder that children's safety on the nursery drive and the entrance foyer remains the responsibility of parents/carers both on arrival and departure.
- Can we also remind parents and carers not to leave children unattended in vehicles for short periods whilst dropping off/picking up, even close to the gates of nursery.

Trips & Specials this term

Library visits
Am children only
23rd Jan, 6th & 13th Feb

Letters and Sounds Sessions
Tue 14th Feb
10.15-11.15am
2.00-3.00pm

Parents Evening
Thursday 16th Mar
5-9pm

Eve Shepherd, Photographer
Monday & Tuesday,
13th & 14th Mar

Mother's Day Services
Thursday 23rd March - pm
Friday 24th March - am

Easter Celebrations at
Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge
Wednesday 5th April



Fees

For any parents not receiving grant who are paying fees, could you please ensure that any money due is paid **on your child's first session of the week. Fees are payable weekly or monthly in advance if you prefer.**

Special envelopes for snack money, fees, music tots, etc., are available to make collection of monies easier for all concerned. Please take them as required - they are in the blue box in the entrance. **Please can any monies less than £30 be paid in cash,** due to hefty bank charges per cheque (this money can be better used by nursery!) Thank you for your co-operation with this matter. *Please make any cheques payable to Bethel Chapel.*

Music Time

We plan to continue this service this term each **Wednesday morning for all children who wish to participate in this session. The charge remains at £2 per session, payable in a one-off payment for the 6 weeks for this half term of £12.** This can be paid anytime during the next 4 weeks.



Toys

Please discourage children from bringing these from home. We have lots of toys already, and loss and breakage is always a possibility.

Mobile Phones

These must not be used once inside the nursery building

Emergency Evacuation Policy

A reminder that should we ever need to evacuate nursery for any reason, our policy will be to take all the children to Wollescote Primary School in Drummond Road to keep them safe and then to contact parents/carers to pick them up from there.

Name Recognition

Please can you encourage your child to find their own coat peg each session, either by picture recognition or by name, and to hang up their own coat, as this will enhance their independency skills within Nursery. Then please encourage them to select their name card and self register in their Key Group area.



Little Lambs Lending Library

Little Lambs morning children will continue to choose their Library books to share at home during Monday morning sessions.

These are to be returned the same day the following week please

On Fridays at 11.30am there will be an opportunity for children, with their parents/carers, to choose and borrow one of our Storysacks or CD-Roms.

We only have 10 story sacks and 30 CD-Roms so they will be issued on a 'first come first served' basis.

It would be much appreciated if they could be returned on the following Monday morning in order to be checked back and used in Lambs sessions if required.

These CD-ROMs cost between £40 - £50 each and we ask that parents take great care with these items on loan.

Any damages which occur whilst in your possession will need to be paid for by yourselves.

Arrival & Collection Times

On arrival, our gate and doors are manned by staff between **8.30—8.40am. Please try to arrive no later than this.** If you are unavoidably delayed, the entrances will be locked, so please ring the bell on the gate and staff will let you in, but we need to keep arrivals after 8.40am to an absolute minimum! Our morning collection time remains at 11.30am. Please try not to be late as we have to set up for afternoon sessions. Thank you.

Afternoon arrival is 12.30pm and afternoon collection times are now 3.00pm for younger children doing 2.5 hour sessions and 3.30pm for all grant funded children accessing 3 hour sessions. **Any parents who wish to collect their child slightly earlier for school pick ups need to inform Pre-School as a matter of urgency.**



Parking

A reminder to parents about parking at our busiest times of day on arrival and departure.

PLEASE DO NOT double park or park on pavements. This is not only dangerous, but could result in the Police being called and cars being ticketed.

In addition, please do not block the entrances to the Church car park or nursery drive.

Sadly we no longer have the facility to park on the factory car park at the top of Hill Street. If this changes in future we will let you know.

Useful Resources

A new document "What to expect, when?", published by 4Children supported by Department for Education, is guidance for parents about children's learning & development in EYFS and is available to download <http://www.4children.org.uk/Resources/Detail/What-to-expect-when>

We thought you might also find the following websites useful and interesting when looking for activities to do with your children at home:

The Imagination Tree - <http://theimaginationtree.com>

One Perfect Day - <http://www.oneperfectdayblog.net>

And these websites have interesting information for the health of your children:

- St John's Ambulance baby CPR - www.sja.org.uk/sja/default.aspx
- British Heart Foundation be active resources - www.bhfactive.org.uk/earlyyearsguidelines/index.html

Little Lambs Pre-School Centre

Bethel Chapel
Hill Street
Wollescote
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY9 8TL

Phone: 01384 892137
Fax: 01384 892002
Mobile: 07724 667464
E-mail: admin@bethelchapel.wanadoo.co.uk
Website: www.bethelchapel.net



On-Line... Our weekly notices, Prospectus, full Policy Document and this newsletter are all available online - **www.bethelchapel.net**

Please check at weekends for important notices for the following week, especially if you are not able to come into Pre-School on a daily basis due to work commitments, etc.

If you would like to submit an application form for another child, please print out the last page of the Prospectus, complete and return it to Nursery



Information sharing

If your child has done anything exciting during the weekend or holidays or has achieved a particular milestone, we would like to know so that we can talk about such an event with them. We have "WOW Moments - Parent Voice" slips for you to complete available in Nursery entrance and online. If you wish to include photos with some of these we would love to see them and they will be added to your child's learning journey to give a complete overview of your child's learning experiences at Pre-School and at home, on outings and holidays.



Snow Watch

We try to remain open as much as possible, but if Little Lambs needs to close at anytime due to the inclement weather conditions, Free

Radio will be informed so you can listen out for notifications on their breakfast show or check their schools closure webpage -

www.freeradio.co.uk/news/schools

In addition there will be a link to this on the front page of the Bethel Chapel Website. You can also ring Sandra Bloomer on her home number, 0121 550 3933, between 7.00—7.30am if you can't access the internet.

Informal Parents Evening

Morning Children & Afternoon children including 2 year progress checks

Thursday 16th March 5.00 - 9.00pm

This is an informal evening where you can discuss the progress of your child and we encourage you as parents to come along and find out a little more about our Pre-School life and day to day activities here at Little Lambs. If you wish to discuss your child's progress with their Key Person, to avoid unnecessary delays, it would be easier if you booked a **10 minute appointment slot**. As part of the EYFS curriculum, it is a requirement that all children aged between 24—36 months have a written progress check, and appointments for this will be made with yourselves. We would welcome and value any ideas, views and suggestions you may have and are happy to answer any questions arising, as we work together for the benefit of our children.

Advance Dates for Summer Term

- Closed Monday 1st May—May Day
- Half Term 29th May—2nd June inclusive
- Father's Day services—15th June pm children, 16th June am children
- Summer Trip to Sycamore Centre—am & pm, Monday 26th June
- To be confirmed—
 - Bluebell woods, am & pm, depending on flowering
 - Sports Day
 - Parents Evening in July
 - Leavers Service
 - End of Summer Term for pm children

Letters, Important Notices & Reports

Please can any parent/carer who wishes to receive a second copy of any correspondence for a parent/carer living outside the family home please see Mal or San.

If you wish such correspondence to be posted out, please have the address and



And Finally

A big "Thank you" to all those parents who helped and supported in so many ways last year. May we continue to work together for the best for our children. Only 349 more sleeps until Santa! (as at Monday 9th Jan)

Looking forward to enjoying the Spring term here at Little Lambs
Working together for the best for our children.

AA This newsletter is available in larger print on request