



MARCH 2017 Newsletter

I'm starting this month's newsletter with some very exciting news, Kerstin's baby boy has arrived, his name is Jesse James and both Kerstin and Jesse are doing well.

Thank you to those parents that have provided waterproofs for their children, these really do help when getting outside in this wet weather. Can we also ask that you return any Tick Tocks spare clothes that your child may have been sent home in.

As we are soon to approach the summer term, the last term before your children venture off to school, can we ask those of you whose children will be leaving us to let us know in writing your child's leaving date as soon as you know it, having regard to our 4 week notice policy. This helps us to plan the summer, thank you. Soon you will be informed what school your child has been accepted into; please could you let us know what school your child will be attending, we need to have this information to enable us to pass on your child's transition form from pre-school to the reception teacher. Those children in receipt of all year round funding will have funding until the 31st of August.

We are already taking bookings for September

If you have a child that will be turning 2 or 3 and eligible for the funded vouchers in September, you may want to think about increasing your sessions. We are expecting a large intake due to our New Nursery being built. If this is the case, please speak to us as soon as possible so we can plan our September registers and make sure we have space for you in our new pre-school. Our Pre-School has become quite popular feeding many of the local schools in the area. We always like to book our existing children in first and give them priority. Can we remind you that when you apply for your child's school, the pre-school in which your child attends **will not** influence which school your child is offered.

We have yet to receive the information we are waiting for regarding the 30 hour entitlement for 3 year olds and how it will be delivered. Once we have received this information from Devon County Council we will let you know how we will be able to offer the 30 hour entitlement. One thing we can share with you is the hourly rate we will receive from the local authority. The rate is set and is not due to change until 2020, we only receive £3.98 per hour, our hourly rate is £5, this is to keep us sustainable, allows to provide a high quality of childcare by employing **ALL** fully qualified staff to level 3 and above, the national requirement is to have 50% of qualified staff, **we have 100%**. As you can see we lose £15 per week per child with, the 30 hour entitlement we are set to lose £30 per week per child, £1500 per year this times by 8 plus children per year is going to have an impact along with the national minimum wage increases and huge increase in business rates. We are sure like us your main priority is to have **high quality childcare** for your children. Once we have been given the guidelines from the local authority we will work out the best way to deliver the 30 funded hours whilst still staying sustainable and continuing to give your children the best quality childcare.

Our topic this month will be Planting and Mini Beasts. Lynn collected the children some frog spawn last week and we already have tadpoles swimming around in our tank. The children will be able to watch them grow and develop. Our letter sound for the week beginning 6th March is v, followed by y,x and q.

Easter Holidays: the nursery will be closed as normal on Good Friday 14th April and Easter Monday 17th April. For those children doing term time only the Easter holidays are from Monday 3rd April, returning Tuesday 18th April.

Unfortunately due to the increase in running costs such as a rise in wages, fuel costs, food etc we will be increasing the session charge by 50p a session, as of April 2017. We have not had an increase in session charges since June 2015.