

# Our Nursery Newsletter

## October 2018

**Firstly and most importantly**, a big welcome to everyone, especially to any new children and their families. As we are coming to midway through the first Term it is so wonderful to see so many happy and settled children. All children should have now been allocated a keyperson within their class whom will lead in supporting your child's care and development whilst at Nursery. If you are not sure who your child's key person is then please speak to a member of staff.

As the weather is starting to turn colder please can you ensure that your child brings suitable clothing with them to Nursery for our gardens as we endeavour to go out in all weathers.



### Lunch times

We are always trying to encourage healthy eating at Nursery, if your child stays for lunch we would be grateful for your help by providing your child with a healthy lunch box. Information on healthy eating can be found on our main parent board in Reception. Please refrain from giving any products containing nuts as we do have children with nut allergies within the nursery. Many thanks for your cooperation.

### Harvest collection

This year's chosen charity for our harvest collection is 'Help for the homeless and needy' led by Hardres Street United Church drop in centre. We are still collecting non-perishable food donations of ring pull tins, packets and drinks. The church are also starting to collect clothing items to hand out to the homeless ready for the winter, donations could include socks, pants/knickers, trousers, jumpers, coats and shoes.

### Unique stories, parent consultations and 2 year checks

Your child's key person will complete the first developmental assessment of the year or 2 year check for your child, ready to share with you at their 'Unique Story' parent consultation, using our online 'Baby's days' system. Dates for your child's class consultations can be found at the bottom of the letter, appointments can be obtained from your child's key person nearer to the time. These consultations give parents and carers the opportunity to speak to their child's Key person about how they have settled into the Nursery and how they are progressing. The information that you provide in the 'My Unique Story' is invaluable to your child's overall learning and development.

### Coffee morning and cake sale

Every year the Nursery raises money for the Pilgrims Hospice. Over the last four years with the support of parents, staff, families and friends, we have raised a huge sum of £10,000. This year we have decided to support a number of charities, in aid of Pilgrims Hospice we will be holding a coffee morning and cake sale on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 11-1pm. We welcome you all to join us to raise funds for this worthy cause and any donations (including cakes) will be much appreciated.

### Sponsored dance

Another charity that we will be supporting this year is the Royal British Legion Maurice Lodge 'cycling without age' campaign. Their aim is to raise £5000 to enable them to buy a trishaw so that they can take residents out for a bike ride and feel the wind in their hair again. We are asking children of the nursery to take part in sponsored dances between 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> November. Sponsorship forms will be sent home after the October half term.



*.....the right to wind in their hair*

*Raising Money to buy our own TRISHAW to use at Maurice Lodge and Maurice House in Broadstairs*

### Coastal explorers

From November we will be re-introducing our coastal explorer sessions for our 3 and 4 year old funded children. The coastal sessions will make use of local natural spaces as part of our outdoor learning experiences supporting the Nursery curriculum, particularly focusing on exploring the world in which we live, our local community, taking care of the environment, developing language, early mathematics and arts. The sessions have a strong emphasis on raising all children's self-esteem and confidence; children can make connections in their learning and come to understand how we look after ourselves, each other and any place where we play. These sessions will be held once a week for each class (Yellow, Blue and Red class). Children will visit our local coastland in small groups. Individual permission will be sought prior to the sessions and more information will be provided nearer the time.

### Funding

From the beginning of the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, every child is entitled to up to 15 hours free childcare per week, for the 38 weeks. This is a total of 570 hours free care, and is known as universal funding. The national rollout of 30 Hours of Free Childcare (extended funding) commenced on the 1 September 2017. A child qualifies for the extended entitlement if both parents are working (or the sole parent in a lone parent family is working) and each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours (National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage) and less than £100k a year. If your child is due to start any of the above funding from January 2019 please ensure that you have requested the hours you would like from Reception as we are very limited on spaces.

### Primary school admissions

For those children off to primary school next September (children born between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2015), please be aware that the local schools will be starting to have opens days. We encourage you to visit the schools that you are interested in as this is a great opportunity to see what's available. Application for primary admissions will be available at [kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions) from the 5<sup>th</sup> November up until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Paper application forms can be obtained by call 03000 41 21 21.

If you require any further advice or support in making a primary application for your child then please contact Becky or Kelly in Reception.

### Staffing

We would like to say a warm welcome back to Jenny who is based in our nature garden, she is returning from maternity leave. We would also like to welcome some new members of staff to the Barbies team, firstly a welcome to Ami who has joined Green class. Ami has joined us from the children centre and has a BA in childhood studies. Next we have Elise who has joined Yellow class, she is currently completing her level three in childcare. Lastly, but not least, we would like to welcome Claire and Nicola who have both joined Red class. Claire was previously a local childminder who is level 3 qualified and Nicola has previously managed another local nursery and she is also level 3 qualified.

From mid-October we will be welcoming back Jess from maternity leave, who will be based in the nature garden and Chelsea who has been on a short career break, who will be based back in Blue Class.

Staff photos, names and qualifications can be found on our welcome board in Reception.

### Parking

We would like to remind all parents when bringing their children by car to please be considerate when dropping off and picking up your child up from nursery. Do not park on pavements, park over driveways/dropped kerbs or on the white lines- doing so can make it very dangerous for pedestrians and other road users. Please do not park in Selwyn Court (the big white building next to the nursery) as this is private property.

### Important dates for your diary:

<b>Term 1:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> September to 19 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Stand up to cancer Colouring competition:</b>	Entries due 5 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Coffee morning and cake sale:</b>	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October in aid of Pilgrims Hospice, 11am-1pm
<b>Nursery Photo day:</b>	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Harvest:</b>	Food donations in by 12 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Red Class parent Consultations:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Green Class parent Consultations:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> October
<b>Half Term:</b>	Non-funded children and Holiday club 22 <sup>nd</sup> October to 26 <sup>th</sup> October.
<b>Term 2:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> October to 14 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Yellow Class parent Consultations:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Blue Class parent Consultations:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October and 1 <sup>st</sup> November
<b>Sponsored Dance In aid of Maurice House:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Children in need:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Nursery Rhyme Week:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> November
<b>Christmas Nativity for 3 and 4 year old funded children only:</b>	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> December times TBC
<b>Christmas Parties:</b>	Week commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Christmas Pantomime For 3 and 4 year old funded children only:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> December times TBC
<b>Christmas Club:</b>	Non-funded children and Holiday club 17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> December.

### Payment of nursery fees.

Can we remind parents/carers all Nursery fees are to be paid on a weekly or monthly basis in advance. Failure to keep your account up to date could result in your child being excluded from the Nursery.