

Spring Term 1 2023

Happy New Year! Welcome to all our new families that are joining the setting this term, and welcome back to all our families!



Thank You!

We would like to say thank you to all families that brought gifts for the staff for Christmas, it is never expected and was very much appreciated by us all!

Uniform

We have a new range of children's uniform available to order from this term. It is made to order and has roughly a 6-8 week turn around. All orders will need to be paid for in advance before we place the order. All orders will need to be made and paid for by Tuesday 31st January for our first batch. The next order will be placed in April. We have purple and blue t-shirts, purple jumpers, purple and blue hoodies and pink and blue rucksacks. Please see the WhatsApp message on the parent's chat for prices.



Fee increases from April 2023

We avoided putting our fees up in January however with the increase of minimum wage and an increase in bills we unfortunately need to increase them from April 2023.

From the **1st April 2023** fees for nursery children will be rising from £6.50 per hour to **£7.00** per hour.

We are also having to increase our food prices as our weekly shop has quadrupled in the past few months.

From the **1st April 2023**:

- Lunches will be rising from £2.75 to **£3.00**.
- Dinners will be rising from £3.25 to **£3.50**.

Fees for our Kids Club will remain the same for the time being.

Lunches

From September 2023 we will no longer be providing lunches prepared at the setting. Children will be required to bring in a packed lunch box. Unfortunately this isn't a decision we have made lightly however it is a decision we have had to make.

Family Social Evening

We are planning to hopefully have another family soft play/social event in either February or March, we are currently trying to confirm a date and location. We will let you know more details once confirmed.

Kids Club

We have started our Home from Home Kids Club this term. We are providing after school pick ups from Fawbert & Barnards, Harlowbury, Tany's Dell, Henry Moore and Newhall schools. Our Kids Club is based at Fawbert & Barnards school for care after school and during the school holidays for school children aged 4 – 11 years old. If interested in after school and holiday care please speak to Linda, Zoe or Chrissie

Polling Day

Our preschool building will be used as a polling station on Thursday 4th May 2023.

Kittens and Cubs rooms and Kids Club will run as normal on this day.

Tigers and Lions will be joined and spaces will need to be booked on a first come first serve basis as numbers are limited. Please speak to Linda, Zoe or Chrissie to book a space if your child is a Tiger or Lion.

Teacher Strikes

You may have heard of teacher strikes that are due to happen in February and March. This will not be affecting the service we provide. However we will not be able to provide extra care for children on these days and are unable to provide full day care for school children on these days. We may be running on less staff during these days as lots of our team have school aged children.

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Labelling all children's items

Please can you ensure that all your child's belongings are labelled including shoes, coats and drink bottles. We have lots of children coming in with similar items which causes confusion with both parents and staff. This also allows us to reunite lost property with all children. Any items that come in with no names on will have their initials added so that we are able to return all items.



Illnesses/Medicines

We are approaching the time of year when unfortunately childhood illnesses are prominent, and children's immune systems are still being developed. Our team are ensuring the setting is clean and doing everything they can to stop illnesses spreading however this is not easy. If your child is not well enough to be in the setting, then they should be at home.

As stated in our Managing Children who are Sick, Infectious or with Allergies Policy, children should be kept at home;

- For 48hrs after the last bout of sickness and diarrhoea
- For 24hrs after a temperature has returned to normal
- For 24 hrs after a vaccine/jab/nasal spray
- For 48hrs if they have been prescribed medication for an infectious illness
- Until they have had at least 3 doses of antibiotics

Jabs and Vaccines

Just a reminder that if your child has had a vaccination (including 1 year jabs, preschool jabs, MMR, nasal spray, or flu jabs) they should be kept at home for 24 hours afterwards (as detailed in our Administering Medicine Policy), in case of a reaction to the vaccination. We would appreciate if parents can please keep us informed of any days those vaccinations are happening so we can ensure we are adhering to this policy.

Pre-existing accidents

We have a duty of care to all the children in our setting and as part of that we are required to record any pre-existing accidents. These are accidents that have happened at home or out and about before they come into nursery. If your child has had any accidents that have resulted in an injury then please let us know when you drop them off so the staff member can record this on Baby's Days as a pre-existing injury.

Tax-Free Childcare

Just a reminder that we accept Tax-Free Childcare, and you may be able to pay for your childcare using it. If you're a working parent, you can get up to £500 every three months (up to £2000 a year per child) to help with the costs of childcare. For every £8 you pay into your childcare account, the government will pay in £2. You can then use the money to pay for your childcare. To check how much, you could get towards your childcare costs and check whether you're eligible please visit the following website: www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare

Dates for the diary:

- **February Half Term** – Monday 13th – Friday 17th February 2023 (holiday club will be operating)
- **Easter Holidays** - Monday 3rd – Friday 14th April 2023 (holiday club will be operating)
- **Restricted Service - Polling Day** – Thursday 4th May 2023 – Childcare will continue as normal for Kittens and Cubs, spaces will need to be booked for Tigers and Lions
- **Setting Closed – Kings Coronation Extra Bank Holiday** – Monday 8th May 2023
- **Summer Finish Date** – Thursday 20th July 2023 - Children who are funded/term time only finish
- **Christmas Break 2023/24** – The setting closes on Wednesday 20th December 2023 at **4pm** and we reopen on Thursday 4th January 2024. Funded/Term Time children finish on Friday 15th December 2023 and return on Monday 8th January 2024.

REMINDER!

Please can you remember that we are a **NO PEANUTS AND NO NUTS** building! This includes **Almonds, Hazelnuts, Walnuts and Coconut**, as well as products such as Nutella, certain types of Chocolate Spread and different types of Milk!