



Noah's Ark under Fives Newsletter

March 19

Dear Parents

I feel like I haven't done a newsletter for a very long time. We finally have the kitchen covered and Hayley is doing a wonderful job and has revised the menu which will be in place from Monday 1st April. We will shortly be sending out copies for you all.

We have had some staff move areas, Zoe has now moved to Giraffes & Sophie has moved to Lions, this was to best utilize both their strengths and skills as practitioners and for operational reasons due to hours worked.

I do have some very sad staff news, Kelly Magill from Giraffes has decided the time has come to leave us and will finish at the end of the term (5th April), Kelly has been a great support to the setting, children and parents and she will be missed greatly.

We recently had a group of children go with Emma, Cat and Tania to Tesco's on the bus. They had a wonderful time and we cannot express how proud we were of the children that went. They were extremely confident, polite and caring, with our lions' children looking after our younger Giraffes on the bus.

I have been spending time with the architects to ensure that our new premises have the best layout both inside and out for the children. While we do not have firm plans as yet they are in production and once we have more information we will readily share it with you. I am still assured that the completion for the whole project will be summer 2020, I have not had a timescale as to when the move is envisaged for us, again once I know more, I will share with you.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your continued support
Shay & Emma

Reminders:

A reminder that our doors open at 11:50 for 12:00 collection and 14:50 for 15:00 this is to allow you time to discuss your child's day and sign anything that we need to make you aware of. For children who attend until 17:30 please be aware that we close at 17:30 and children need to be collected and have left by this time. Please note the setting operates a late collection charge of £10.00 for every part of 10 minutes a child remains beyond their booked session. If you have not arrived by the session end times, we will enforce this policy and late collections charges will be applied.

We have experienced quite a lot of illness in recent weeks, please be reassured we do not send children home lightly. If you are asked to collect your child, please trust that we only do so as a last resort and in accordance with our policies. For sickness and diarrhea your child must be kept away from the setting for 48hrs from their last bout. This rule is applied to both children and staff. If your child needs medication to control their temperature or because they are unwell, they must not be sent into the setting. If your child becomes unwell during the session, we will follow our emergency paracetamol policy. For any child prescribed anti biotics they must remain absent for 48hrs following the start of the treatment, this is due in part to them having an infection but also children can develop allergies to anti biotics, even if they have had them before. If your child is not well and they attend we are risking both children and staff already in attendance. If we have a severe outbreak, we may have to close for a deep clean to ensure we eradicate the bugs.

Room seniors have asked me to request that children do not bring toys in from home. Whilst we understand that children may wish to bring toys etc we are having increasing numbers of children bringing things in that then get lost, broken or fought over as other children are unaware that they do not belong to the setting when they get dropped on the floor or children are playing with them. This, of course, does not apply to genuine comforters that children may need to settle. Should children come in with items from home you will be asked to take them off your child and take them home with you. If items are in bags and children take them out staff will ensure they are taken away so that they do not cause disagreements but we cannot guarantee their safety.

We also need to remind parents that we have a duty of care to all children and that it has been reported that some parents are placing children in their cars without car seats. If we have any more reports, we will ask the local police to begin doing spot checks at drop off and collection times so that parents can be spoken to regarding the dangers of even the shortest journey without proper restraints.

Staff list

Manager: Shay White
Deputy: Emma Page
SENCo: - Chantelle Holme

Monkeys: -

Senior: Lyndsey McFall
Emma Foyle
Charley Thorne
Katie Evans
Suzanne Richmond

Giraffes: -

Senior: Alice Roud
Zoe Wetherell
Kelly Magill
Conchi Saugar
Tania Lawrence

Lions: -

Senior: Cat Tweed
Rebecca Foyle
Rachel Bracey
Lisa Fitzgerald
Sophie Burton

Chef- Hayley Wallis

Dates for your diary

- ◆ Friday 5th April: - Training day Noahs Ark closed to children
- ◆ 8th - 22nd April Easter holidays-Noahs ark Closed.
- ◆ Wednesday 24th July 2019 15:00 Garden party followed by leavers ceremony. Noahs ark closes at 15:00
- ◆ Thursday 25th July 2019:-Training day, Noahs ark closed to children
- ◆ 26th July - 30th August 2019 Summer holidays, Noahs ark closed

Room news



Monkeys have moved over to a more holistic way of playing based on what the children have been interested in. The staff are trying to create an environment that has much more resources that are open ended, so while it may look like they are collecting rubbish, the children are able to explore and experiment and we have seen the children really engaged for quite long periods as they find out how things work or they build with what is available. We really do have some children with amazing problem-solving skills already.

On speaking to the staff, they have expressed how proud they are of the children at how well they are all coping with maneuvering up and down the stairs to access outside play. While we understand that time is a little critical when you have work etc, but if we can ask that where possible you allow your child to get up and down the stairs under their own steam. I understand our stairs may look a little scary but we really encourage children as soon as possible to be able to get up and down under their own steam as this is the much safer way rather than being carried.

Can we also request that parents do not use the first half door when dropping off or collecting children for safety reasons. There may be a child behind the door or we may have an escapee. Sometimes the main door is open and some of our little ones are lightening quick at getting out.

The Monkeys team



Our Giraffes are becoming super confident at exploring their surrounding and the staff are constantly changing areas of provision to ensure children are challenged to use their imagination. We have moved the eating area so that is more accessible and in the flow of the rooms. It has also enabled us to utilise the old food room for Chantelle to work with small groups of children on targeted support. We are already seeing the children benefit hugely from this change and will continue to monitor this.

Staff are working on boundaries with children in Giraffes, as we had some children who were struggling to keep themselves safe, which was beginning to impact on all of the other children. The positive message is that by ensuring we use consistent boundaries with the children and reinforcing what behaviour is acceptable. The children have responded incredibly quickly and are already ensuring they keep themselves safer. One of things that we are trying to make the children understand is that sometimes what they do may have a consequence, for example if they take a toy from another child we ask the child look at their friend to see if they look happy, sad, cross etc., If you are able to continue this at home it will help immensely

The Giraffes team



As our Lions begin to show excellent readiness for school, the staff are really capturing the children's interest and following their lead to provide activities that are directly related to the children's current interests. We are finding that we have some children who have exceptional imaginations, that they are becoming in charge of their own thoughts, ideas and helping their friends to make good choices. Our children are showing real care for each other generally, which is lovely to see.

We will continue to focus on children's readiness for school and I have attached a link for parents to view a lovely article about what school readiness is. <http://www.earlyyearscentre.com/eyc/latest-news/what-is-school-readiness/> There is a misconception that school readiness is the ability for children to be able to read, write know their numbers etc. School readiness is more about the skills children need to be able to do this, for example being able to listen and have good attention skills is far more important than being able to read or form letters. This is because without the skills to focus and hold attention children will struggle to do these tasks. We in foundation stage 1 will work on children having these skills along with social skills and the physical movement required to enable them to excel when they enter foundation stage 2 (reception) at school. While we respect that parents may wish to encourage their children to be able to read words and write their name etc, only if we see that children clearly have mastered all these other skills will we work on them in the setting.

The Lions team



Chantelle recently visited John McNeil specialist centre in Salisbury and watched the attention wiltshire programme in full swing. Chantelle is working with selected children and in only the space of 3 weeks she is seeing huge progress.

If you have concerns about any aspect of your child's development please do speak to your child's key person who can liaise with Chantelle if needed for advice. Early intervention makes a huge impact for children who may need extra support.

Chantelle

We hope you that you have found the information in this newsletter useful. Can I thank you all in advance for your help, understanding a cooperation in working with us on the reminders and room requests.

From us all at Noahs Ark under 5's