

Welcome to the last Newsletter of this school year....and what a year it has been! So many achievements to celebrate and so many exciting developments planned for the future. We've had a lot of fun, and there's still more to come in a packed 2 weeks left of this term.

Future Governance

At the recent AGM the Membership voted to join with the TEAM Academy, along with the Primary School, to come under their governance. This is a really positive step and one that will offer many opportunities for the whole Setting. We are very excited to be working more closely with the new Reception Teacher – Mrs Jenny North – in September and building on our status as a Partnership Foundation Stage Unit.

The biggest change will be that the Committee will no longer exist and we will dissolve the Charity in due course before we transfer across. From a parent's viewpoint there will be little change on a day-to-day basis aside from an observably closer relationship with the school in all aspects of our planning and management.

The transition will take approximately 6-7 months so we are working towards a date early in 2018 to finalise the transfer. I will keep you all well informed of the process and any decisions/timelines that are made. If you have any questions I am very happy to answer them, or put them to the TEAM Executives for them to respond. Please use the Suggestion Box by the Reception Desk or email me via the Setting Email Address.

Fee Review

The Annual Fee Review is due this month where the Committee will assess the financial state of affairs and what the fee structure needs to be in order to support us remaining open. This year's review will be done in consultation with the TEAM Academy as they will be taking over the business part way through the year. I will send out a letter by 1 Aug to let you know the fees wef 1 Sept.

Email Correspondence

In line with a more electronic-workplace we are now sending a lot of our communications via email. Please ensure we have an up-to-date email address for you so that you do not miss out on any essential information.

30 Hours Funding

You may be aware that the Government's Extended Childcare Initiative commences in Sept. Under this scheme certain people can receive 30 hours of funded childcare for 3-4 year olds as opposed to the current 15 hours. There are qualification criteria to meet and it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to apply, not the Setting. If you think you may be eligible please speak to Kelly who can give you more information and signpost you to the application.

Clothing

I'm sure you'll agree that our new school uniform looks great and it is lovely to see so many of the children wearing it. It can be challenging to match the right child to the correct item of clothing though (lol) so we would be grateful if all items of clothing (uniform and non-uniform) can be clearly named, including sunhats. School uniform can be purchased at any time through the office – we do need a minimum of 6 items, so there may be a short wait until we have enough, but it is usually not long.

Holiday Buzz Club

The booking forms for the Holiday Buzz Club have been sent out. I appreciate it is difficult to know what your needs are for the full 6 weeks, but we do need to plan what staff we will require in the Setting to meet the correct ratios of care. Forms are due back by Thurs 13th July so that we can make arrangements for the first week in good time. Where capacity exists there will be the opportunity for ad hoc bookings as the holiday progresses, but the more notice we have the better for our planning.



Witheridge Childcare
@The Hive

Holiday Club numbers have reduced significantly this year to the point of us having to consider cancelling some days. The staff have planned a fun and varied programme throughout the 6 weeks, so please support it.

No Chocolate Policy

Please remember that we have a no-chocolate policy, which includes any chocolate based ingredients within the foods such as chocolate chips or chocolate covering. White chocolate is also not allowed. I am sure you can appreciate our stance on this.

Outdoor Renovation

As you will know from previous correspondence we are planning a renovation of our outdoor area to maximise the space for all-year-round use. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in gaining our grant money for this from the Prince's Countryside Trust; however, there are aspects of the plan that we can still do using our own fund raising.

Work will commence on Monday 24 July. It will involve a small digger working outside the Setting and the moving of a large/heavy amount of rubber matting. Please be aware of the signs that will be up and use the access/paths directed. Thank you for your cooperation on this project.

Gates

I know our gates can be frustrating, but they are an essential part of our safety and security plan. We will review them as part of the work outlined above, but in the meantime please ensure that the outer gates are always closed behind you and that the bolt on the inner PreSchool Gate is securely across – there is very little over-lap on this one so it swings open very easily.

Sports Day

This Thurs is our Sports Day so do come along and support all the children at 1030 on the Sports Field. There is also the option for us all to have a group picnic afterwards if you would like to bring along a packed-lunch.

End-Of-Year Trip

Monday 17th July is our End-of-Year Trip to the Waie Inn – more details about the day will be posted on the Matters of the Moment Notice Board so please look out for them.

Leavers Ceremony

We will wish our leavers farewell and good luck at 11 am on Thurs 20th July in the Sports Club. All parents are welcome to join us to mark this important occasion.

The last day of term is 21st July.

We wish you all a really great Summer ☺