



Welcome to the new term and the New Year ☺ I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and a well-deserved break. Our thanks to everyone who supported our events over Christmas; the Nativity, Christmas Fair and Village Sleigh were all very successful.

The Management Team: As you know Mrs Hallett is now retired and the new Team are settling in to the new term. Jayne is now the Childcare Manager and is the point of contact for all child-related matters. Amanda is the Admin Manager responsible for all other areas such as Finance, Infrastructure, Compliance, HR etc. She will also be retaining her voluntary role as Chair.

Session Times: The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, which is our governing curriculum, requires us to undertake certain activities to ensure the children meet the correct milestones in learning and development. To achieve this we organise specific group and individual activities within our session times as outlined in your Contracts (0900-1200 and 1300-1530). We would respectfully ask that parents only drop off/pick up at the start/end of each session so as not to interrupt this important learning. If there is an urgent or medical reason that you need to collect/drop off your child within these session times then please discuss it first with the staff.

Electronic Correspondence: As with all aspects of life today everything is moving towards a more electronic format. We have already reaped the benefits of this by transiting from the paper-led Learning Journeys to the Orbit E-System. We will be building on this strategy throughout this year and you will see more things coming out in e-format. Please be assured this will be a slow and steady transition and we are not aiming to be entirely paperless. We will also ensure that all important information is displayed via multi-media including our FaceBook Page, WebSite, letters in the Children's trays, posters and on the Parent Notice Board. We have also changed our primary email address to more correctly reflect the full scope of our services – the new address is wetheridgechildcare@gmail.com. Kelly will also be changing her address to wetheridgechildcareadmin@gmail.com. We would be grateful if you could update your home contacts with

these new addresses and inform us if your email address has changed.

Important Dates: The dates for half-term are 13-17 Feb; Holiday Club is open so please collect your booking form from the office. The Easter Holidays are 1-17 April; we will be open all days except for Good Friday and Easter Monday. Forms will be available from the office after half-term.

Fundraising: Our grateful thanks for all your support with our fundraising programme last year – we hope you all enjoyed the events and thank you in particular to those who contributed and helped out in so many ways. We are planning more fun for this year – the first date for your diary is 15 April which will be the Easter Fair and Egg Hunt. More dates will follow soon.

As usual we will be supporting Comic Relief on 24 March – more details of our planned activities will be posted on the Parent Communication Board above the Register Desk.

Annual Questionnaire: We always welcome your input on our services and will be sending out a questionnaire in the next few weeks to ask for your thoughts, comments and ideas on all aspects of the Setting and how we can do even better in 2017.

General Reminders: Please could all PreSchool parents remember to sign their children in/out on the register by the door and tick their preference for lunch so that we can order the correct amount of meals from the kitchen.

We always encourage the children to eat fruit, and grapes are a particular favourite; however, please could we remind parents that grapes must be cut in half lengthways (from top to bottom through the part where the stalk attaches). Whole grapes, or grapes cut sideways present a significant choking hazard and cannot be given to the children.

As you know, we have a 'no chocolate' policy so we would be grateful if parents could refrain from including any chocolate items, including items with chocolate ingredients, in children's packed lunches.

We are very keen to let the children play outside as it complements our EYFS activities and gives them a good opportunity to let off some steam! With this in mind please could all children bring a warm / waterproof coat each day.