



Welcome back to our new academic year. Although we are now open all year round it still feels very exciting at the beginning of September, somehow 'starting afresh' this year the staff all have their new Witheridge Childcare @ The Hive uniform as well. It also gives us the opportunity to welcome new children, this term Lexi and Cody, and remind everyone of points concerning the smooth running of the setting.

Thanks: hopefully some of you may have noticed that there have been some major cleaning, painting, re-furb jobs carried out over the summer, we are indebted to Will and Zabrina, Amanda and Duncan, Ryan Chapman and Hannah for their tireless support. I really don't think you can understand the difference this makes to staff morale to feel appreciated in this way.

Lunches: A quick reminder that we have a no chocolate policy, this is across the board for all departments. We also promote a healthy mix of food within the lunch boxes, generally we find parents/carers are very sensible, please refrain from giving your children large bags of crisps. If you need more information concerning portion size please ask a member of staff for additional literature.

Parent notices: we have several ways of communicating with parents, the main static notice board where you can find staff details, the Ofsted report, safeguarding notifications etc, we also have the dry wipe board for frequently changing information i.e the request for carrier bags. Our new Facebook page is also up and running. The main aim of the new FB page is to give parents/carers an insight into what is happening within the day to day running of the setting so that they may talk to the children about it as we often don't get time to tell you the smaller detail e.g finding a giant slug on the path but a

photo on FB could prompt a lovely conversation between you and your child.

Orbit: Thank you to all those parents that have signed up to our new Learning Journey format, Orbit. Over the summer holiday Orbit have refurbished and upgraded their processes to enable more beneficial tracking for settings. However, due to a technical glitch much of the previous data is currently unavailable. We have been assured by their business manager that it is still all secure and none of it is in the public domain but at the moment settings and parents cannot access it. They are working on this and we have been able to sign all the children back on, hopefully it will soon be business as normal but for those of you that were using it in a very proactive way (thank you) you will not be able to access it at the moment. Please continue to take photographs of your children's amazing moments and when we are able to upload them we will add them to your child's Learning Journey.

Head Lice: now we are back in close contact with each other I'm sure headlice will be on everyone's agenda. Please help to stamp this out before they get hold by regular combing with a fine toothed headlice comb to remove the headlice and then again to remove the nits (egg shell of louse). If you are unsure of what to look for please ask a member of staff for support plus we have some lovely pictures!

Contact : If you need to contact us Kelly's working hours are now Monday and Weds office based, alternatively via e mail on wpskelly@hotmail.co.uk Mrs Hallett on site days Mon. Tues. Weds. E mail contact for myself or Jayne witheridgepreschool@gmail.com New setting mobile number if you need to contact us, (although signal isn't very reliable) 07478031291

Coat pegs/trays : Theses are an ideal early way of introducing your child to name recognition, please encourage your child to become independent and find their own coat peg or tray. Please check their tray daily as they often have notes or treasured drawings/paintings to share with you.

Progress meetings: These are meetings between pre-school children's parents/carers and the child's key

person, this gives you the opportunity to discuss your child's development and their next steps. The meeting will take place in a confidential space without your child present. They will take place the week beginning 26th September an appointment sheet will be posted on the parent notice board.

Absent notes: Please inform us that your child will be absent and complete the small slip under the signing in sheets when your child returns from an absent period.

Millies Mark: some of you may be aware of the legislation that has been passed after the sad and unfortunate death of a little girl called Millie whilst she was at her childcare setting. This legislation states that all staff that are included in childcare ratios must hold a full and relevant childcare qualification. I am proud to say that this has always been one of our benchmark requirements and that all of our staff already hold a relevant paediatric first aid qualification. It seems pertinent at this time to ask "would you, as a parent, know what to do in an emergency?" If there is enough interest we can organise a short course that will cover the basics such as choking, burns/scalds, high temperatures for a small cost to parents.

Ride on toys: Our ride on toys, small bikes etc, scooters for older children are now all reaching the end of their life span if anyone has any at home that have been outgrown we would love to re-home them.

Nappy bin: does anyone have a spare one at home that they no longer need or purchased as they thought it was a good idea and then changed their mind, if so we really need a second one please.

Spare clothes: please to remember to send your child with a change of clothes in a labelled bag. Could we also remind you that the children do experience a wide range of activities, some a little messy and whilst we do endeavour to get aprons on them all it is best not to send them in their smartest clothes. Pre-school uniform is available and we do have some second hand for £1 per item.

Facebook: Staff are not allowed due to our policy to have setting users i.e parents of any child that attends

any part of the setting as friends on Facebook unless they were a friend prior to the child starting at the setting. Please do not be offended if your friend request is rejected or you are deleted.

Buzz Club: Please can all parents ensure that their children are booked in for both Breakfast and After School Club as required. Holiday Club also needs to be booked in advance please.

And finally..... I have to share that I am retiring at the end of this term. I have spent 16 years working in Witheridge and it has been an amazing time but now feel the need to move on with my life, maybe do some babysitting for my granddaughters and go travelling!

Dates for the diary

McMillan Coffee morning - 30th September

Tempest photography - 3rd October

Wear it Pink Day - Friday 21st October

Halloween Party Parish Hall - 22nd October

Half term 24th October - 28th October

Buzz Club open 24th-28th October

Children in Need - 18th November

Christmas lunch - Weds 14th December

Christmas performance - 7th December 2.30

Christmas party - Friday 16th 10.30

Last day of term 16th December

Last day of Buzz Club 23rd Dec

Buzz club re-opens 3rd Jan