



May Newsletter

www.NewMillsidePre-School.co.uk



Hello to all our families...

We are delighted to welcome Paula Higgins to the team, who is covering maternity leave. Paula knows us all very well as she was a parent and committee member who left us last year and also congratulations to Steph who had a baby boy at Easter.

All the team at New Millside x

Training

The staff continue with their professional development and we are currently focussing on listening skills. Working in partnership with the infant schools, we will be following phonics phase 1 & 2 programmes with the children. More details to follow.

Rights Respecting behaviour at pre-school



Being kind, helping, sharing, good manners,
good listening, being a friend.

Outside Area

As the weather gets warmer we have created a cosy area for the children to enjoy, which we theme in conjunction with their favourite books. This half term the focus is 'The Gruffalo', this area is all thanks to Kara who has made all the props in her time at home.

We will be outside lots, looking at planting, bugs and butterflies, exploring texture with our mud kitchen and sandpit and playing lots of number games. A big thankyou to Grant and Stone, builders merchants in Aylesbury, who are donating a tonne of play pit sand. If you have any outdoor toys in good condition they would like to donate, please speak to Nicola, we particularly need bikes.

Informal Parents Day

Monday 16th May

There will be no usual sessions on this day, as we would like you to come in and join in with activities that the children do whilst they are with us and have an informal chat with your keyworker and have a look at their learning journey. Please do not leave your child.

Big School

As we begin the transition to big school for some of our children, we will be visiting the infant school reception classes and welcoming teaching staff into the setting to meet the children and see them play. We will be working closely with you, to ensure a smooth transition.

With this in mind, we will be holding a 'school readiness' evening on 23rd May @ 7.30, letters have been sent out to all parents who have children leaving us in July. Please make every effort to attend.

Show and Tell

The children should only bring in items from home for show and tell and that fit in the supplied bag. Please ensure that every item is clearly labelled.

Pre-school clothing

If your child is sent home wearing an item from pre-school please wash and return asap.

Summer Term

12.04.16 – 27.05.16
06.06.16 – 14.07.16

Dates For Your Diary

- 16.05.16 Informal Parents Day
- no sessions
- 23.05.16 School readiness evening
- for leavers only
- 12.07.16 Move up day - no sessions
- open for new starters only
- 14.07.16 Summer party & leavers
ceremony
- 16.07.16 Summer Fete 11am-2pm
(please let Jacky know if you are
interested in having a stall, or know
anyone that might)

Sickness / Holidays

You must let us know by phone if your child is unwell and if possible back this up with written confirmation so that this can be kept for audit purposes. **Please do not send your child to preschool if they have suffered from sickness/diarrhea for at least 48 hours AFTER they have kept a meal down. If your child is unwell or on holiday please call or message pre-school 489457 or 07521 643112.**

Funded Children - Extended Absence

Child is absent for long period due to sickness – New Millside will record the reason for the absence and ask parent to sign as confirmation. This evidence will be retained for audit purposes. If absence is for a long period, perhaps due to hospitalisation, we will consider if the hours can be reallocated on a temporary basis.

Child is absent due to family holidays or pilgrimage – Funding will be retained for the remainder of the term. However, if a child is absent for a period greater than four weeks, the place will be reallocated if it is required by another family. When/if the child returns they will be treated as a new application for a place. New Millside MUST be informed in writing of extended holidays with their Child's return date.

Child from Traveller community (Gypsy, Roma & Traveller) – Gypsy, Roma and traveller children must be known by METAS to be treated as an exception. Travellers should be treated the same as other families but it is recognised that they may attend on an irregular pattern and may not agree to sign a Parent/Provider Agreement (FFE4). If a traveller is absent for a period of more than four weeks their place will be reallocated by New Millside unless the setting is advised differently by METAS.

Failure to notify - Failure to notify New Millside of extended holiday and/or prolonged absences in writing with a return date, will result in the child's place being reallocated within the first 7 days.

Staff

We are currently looking to recruit to 1-2-1's for up to 17.5 hours per week from September and a full time apprentice, if you would like more details, please speak to Jacky.

Parent Volunteers

We would welcome help at lunch time for approximately 45 minutes for our lunch club. If you have any regular spare time and are willing to volunteer, please speak to Nicola. A DBS will be required, but this is something that will be applied for through the pre-school.

Sun Protection Policy

You have all received and signed to agree to the above policy. Please ensure that clearly labelled sun cream is sent in, which will be placed in your child's drawer. ALL children MUST have sun cream applied before preschool when necessary and MUST have sun hats, enclosed shoes and covered shoulders – NO STRAPPY TOPS.

Spare Clothes

This term we are likely to be getting very messy, so please send a change of clothes in your child's bag. Everything including 'show and tell' must be clearly labelled. We are having a lot of clothing left behind at the end of the session.

Raffle

We have recently sent out letters regarding donations of a phone and a scooter that are going to be raffled this term, please return your completed form with monies for the first raffle of the mobile phone which will be drawn on 20th May, we need to sell a minimum of 50 tickets.

Easy Fundraising

Please use as search engine and register with New Millside as this is a good way to help raise funds.

Fees

Please ensure that these are paid by the date specified on the invoice and paid into account 01557858. Our preferred way of payment is BACS.

Pre-existing Injuries

We would like to remind you to inform staff of any bumps, bruises, marks or scratches that your child may have before you leave them for a session so that the correct form can be completed.

Website

Don't forget to check out our website: www.newmillsidepre-school.co.uk

Voluntary Donations

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation this year, we are sure you are aware due to so much publicity recently that ALL pre-schools are struggling to make ends meet due to the hourly rate we receive per child, this was more fully described in the recent letter sent out to you 'Champagne Pre-schools on Lemonade Funding'.

Donations

Thank you for your kind donations of consumables last term, they have helped us immensely. If you have any art supplies you would like to provide i.e. pens, pencils, crayons, paint, paper etc the staff will make good use of them.

SAFEGUARDING

We are committed to safeguarding all children that attend our setting, and would therefore remind you of the following

- Use of any recording equipment is strictly forbidden i.e. mobile phones, camera, etc whilst you are on the premises, this includes the outside area. If you enter the premises using, your mobile phone you will be asked to switch it off.
- Collection – only those listed, photographed and have the password will be given permission to take children home.
- Any concerns regarding child protection must be reported to the Local Authority, it is not our responsibility to investigate.
- Safeguarding Officers within the pre-school; Mel Elliott – Deputy, Nicola Preskett – Manager, Nancy Keen – Chairperson, Emily Hobbs & Janine Daniel.
- If at any time you are concerned or worried about a child, please speak to a member of the team or contact Ofsted 0300 123 1231 or NSPCC in confidence.
- Our policy is clearly detailed on our website www.newmillsidepre-school.co.uk, copies are available on request.

As always, we work in partnership with you as parents and are available at any time to discuss your child's progress.

Fundraising

Well, what a great start to what's looking to be a fun filled year! Firstly, I would like to start by saying thank you to all those who helped make the Christmas raffle possible - those who donated prizes, who bought tickets and to Mel's daughter Emma for creating the beautiful hampers that were won by yourselves. Congratulations to all those who won a hamper, especially Torren Keen, who's hamper was donated by Tesco. Thanks to all those who bought tickets we raised £160 that will be used toward new equipment and fun educational days for our children.

This year, we would like to put a lot of effort into fundraising and hosting special events in order to raise as much as we can, to give our children the special attention to detail they are all so deserving of. However, I am sure we are all aware that putting money in a pot or buying tickets is not always possible, if you would like to do your bit for pre-school but your purse strings don't quite stretch that far then I am very happy to say there is another way to go about raising money for New Millside.

www.easyfundraising.co.uk is a search engine just like google. However, this particular search engine gives something back to your chosen charity every time you search with them. So please, make this site your search engine page and choose New Millside as your charity. At literally the click of a button you will be able to raise funds for the pre-school - all at no extra cost to you. So get your friends, family, neighbours and colleagues involved to get the pennies flowing.

Don't forget!

We are planning many exciting events and raffles for this year and here are just a few to put in your diary:

February - Valentine's day raffle

March - Mother's day raffle

Summer Fair - date to be confirmed

Whilst we are still planning many other entertaining events we would always like your input - if you have a particular event or idea that you think would help New Millside raise the extra funds to buy our children new equipment or a day out, then please don't hesitate to speak to myself or another member of the committee. All ideas are welcomed, as this is all about your children and their futures.

That's all from me for now, but once again thank you for your continued support and I hope you are looking forward to New Millside in 2016 as much as we are!

Millie Hobbs - FUNDRAISER

New Millside Library

We are delighted to be able to offer all the children of New Millside the opportunity of using our 'lending library'. All children have been issued with their own library card, which they remove from their drawer at two specific times of the day and pass to 'Librarian Kara' to choose/swap a book. All we ask is that when the children have been read their book, it is returned in the same condition to their drawer, so they may remove when asked and swap for another. Should a book become damaged whilst in their possession we will ask for it to be replaced.

Committee

Our hardworking and dedicated parent committee continue to support our work in pre-school and can be available to discuss any concerns/ideas you may have;

Nancy Keen	Chairperson - Torren's mum
Tracey Campkin	Vice Chair - Maxwell & Ella's mum
Sian Turner	Treasurer - Holly's mum
Aleksa Sagajllo	Secretary - Mak's mum
Emily Hobbs	Fundraiser - Alfie's mum

Settling New Children

We are delighted that all our children that started in September and this term, have settled very quickly, using our 'Settling without Tears' 5 step process (Penny Tassoni) and we will continue to use this approach in the future. In fact, we have been congratulated by our local Early Years team for using the technique as it is evidence based and improved outcomes for children, as their well-being and emotional development is at the heart of our ethos.