



Dear Parents and carers

1 September 2020



Although we still have a couple of our preschool leavers with us for a few more sessions, last week saw us say goodbye to the majority of our leavers. To say we have been overwhelmed with all the thank you cards and gifts would be an understatement- although totally unnecessary and not expected it is lovely to feel so appreciated and valued, thank you everyone for your kind words. We will miss the class of 2020; you were all fantastic and dealt with the exceptional challenges so well. Goodluck everyone and don't forget to send us your first day at school photo's...

Nursery opening hours

So, we are back to our usual opening hours of 7.30am - 6pm, from this week (yes, we hear you cry). We only have a few children in, outside of our funded hours 8.30am - 4pm so we can certainly welcome a few more. If you require any additional hours then please email the nursery on halesfield@telfordnurseries.org to confirm.

We are now hoping that pick up and drop off times will be a bit more staggered now, so the car park shouldn't be as busy but please bear with us if the car park is full. As always, we will try and resolve the issue should any problems arise.

Playground update

Yes- we finally have our new outdoor classrooms in situ. We are so pleased with them and cannot wait to start using them this week. One third of the stables is sectioned off for our babies to exclusively use, then the rest is open access for the rest of the children. We plan to have tables and chairs set up in the one side so the children can eat dinner and set up creative activities, regardless of the weather. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who made this happen over the bank holiday weekend, you worked so hard and the results are amazing.



Staff changes

We are very excited to welcome lots of new faces into nursery this month. We have so many new children starting, which has mainly come about because of the closure of two nursery's local to us. Thankfully with the influx of new children we have also had some new staff to help us out. We are very pleased to welcome Amy and Becky who now work in the preschool with Jenni and Brogan. They have come from Strawberry Hill nursery in Sutton Hill and are set to

replace Bev who left last week (after 20 years) and Lucy who has recently left to go on maternity leave.

We still have Beth helping us out over the next month before she starts a new job and a new apprentice for our toddler room starting this week. These are major changes for us, as our staff turn-over is somewhat non-existent. We will be working closely with our new recruits to get them up to speed and confident with how our nursery runs and what they can expect from us. We're confident this won't take long as our staff are great at welcoming new staff and those that have joined us come with a wealth of knowledge and experiences.

Covid-19 update

As the new term starts we feel it is probably appropriate to refresh everyone on our COVID-19 procedures.

- We are still using separate entrances for the classrooms to minimise queuing and interactions. To recap, Preschool children enter and exit through the preschool fire gate, to the right of the main entrance. Babies enter through the main entrance (please do not enter the building just ring the bell for staff to come) and Toddlers can enter through the canopy fire gate next to the playground.
- When entering children will be asked to wash their hands before going into play.
- Please do not send children in who are unwell. Children displaying any signs of illness will be sent home and will be asked to isolate or get tested according to the government guidelines. We have found a really useful poster that we have in nursery that illustrates the current measures we are following should a child or staff member display symptoms. This can be found on our website by following the link: <http://telfordnurseries.org/files/coronavirus-poster.pdf>
- Staff will be cleaning throughout the day to maintain our high levels of cleanliness as well as a thorough clean down at the end of each day by Cleveland Cleaning.

Community Fridge



Last week we had a major amount of yoghurts delivered for our community fridge. Please do not be shy, come in daily and help yourself to produce in the fridge. It is there for everyone to make use of. By offering the food out we are preventing it from being wasted and going to landfill. Most of the food in the fridge is close to its best before date- so it needs to be given out quickly when it arrives. If you feel able to, pop a donation in the money tin in the foyer- this will go back to the Food Share Project where the food has come from. We are still finding our feet with the Community Fridge and are always looking to improve- if you have any suggestions then please do let us know.

Menu

Here is the link to this weeks dinner menu:

http://telfordnurseries.org/files/Autumn_Term_2020_Week_1.pdf

Once again it looks fantastic and we cannot wait to try these meals. Thank you, Willow Café, for providing our lovely lunches, Vicky and her team have been working so hard with the Food Share Project to get things working for us.

Nursery Fee's

Since June we have been emailing out parent invoices instead of handing out printed copies. This approach appears to be working well for nursery as it's cutting down on printing costs and also helping parents keep track of their fee's. Payments for nursery fee's are due at the end of each week or a month in advance. We accept cash, bank transfers, childcare vouchers and payments from tax free childcare accounts. If you have any questions about invoices or

require the nursery bank details then please email halesfield@telfordnurseries.org for more information.

Please note as a charity we must ensure that parent payments are up to date and correct. If fee's fall into arrears and things become a struggle then please contact the nursery to discuss. If payment is not received when requested then we may have to cancel children's places.

Music Minors

We are so excited to be welcoming back Rachel from Music Minors next week? She will be in delivering music sessions to the toddlers and preschool children. The babies usually join in, but we may find it difficult now as we are unable to merge the classes due to our set bubbles. Rachel will be taking the classes outside on a Monday morning. Her fun sessions are great; and the children love her coming. Sessions are free, we pay for them using fundraising money.



Diary Dates

- Music Minors sessions start Monday 7th September

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Helen Childs'.

Helen Childs
Nursery Manager