

Charity No. 137620



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Newsletter

Issue No.51 September 2018

Welcome Back

We welcome many new children and their families and look forward to a busy, fun, academic year.

Term Dates

We return on Tuesday 4th September 2018.

Parent/Key Person meetings weeks commencing 29th October and 5th November.

Stay and Play session – Monday 5th November 11.15 – 12.15 or 2.15 – 3.15 (these will be held through the year on different days of the week – Please see section below).

Last day of term is Thursday 18th October 2018.

We return on Monday 29th October 2018.

NEARLY NEW SALE

We hold Nearly New Sales twice a year, our **Next Nearly New Sale is 17th November 2018**. The event is a great opportunity for sellers, buyers and the preschool. The preschool usually raises over £200 towards toys for your children to enjoy, it would therefore be wonderful to see a few more parents supporting us. If you are interested in being a seller or want more information, please contact us via email - Blackmoreearlynew@gmail.com

Show & Tell - Alphabet

During this half term we will be looking at letters in the alphabet for our show and tell. We would like to invite all children to bring in an item from home showing the Letter of the week. If you could label the item, we would really appreciate it (this saves a lot of confusion!).

Weeks commencing - 4th September – Free choice. 10th September – A/B. 17th September – C/D. 24th September – E/F. 1st October – G/H. 8th October – I/J/K. 15th October – L/M

Arrival and Collection

Preschool opens at 9.15 and closes at 12.15 (if not staying for lunch). Can you please arrive and collect promptly as a lonely child sitting on the carpet is not a happy child. As stated in our policy there is a charge if you are more than 15 minutes late, however we may begin charging for repeated collection lateness.

Financial Support

If you are having difficulties paying your fee's, or any other payments related to the preschool, then please speak to Angie Bonnen or Angela Taylor

Coats and Footwear

Please remember to bring your child's coat with their name clearly written inside, to avoid confusion when going outside to play. And ensure footwear is appropriate – ie no open toes or slippery soles.

Library Books

As you may have seen we have a box of books in the foyer, these are for you to borrow, take home and share with your child and then swap for a new one. Happy reading!

Children's bags

Please do not leave anything in bags that children should NOT have, e.g creams, medication etc. The bags are accessible for all children and some children have the same bags. You may think your child knows what the item is for but other children may not and take it orally. We now supply nappy sacks so you no longer need to. Equally, can you please check coat pockets for small items, and coins!

Reminders

Can you please provide a spare change of clothes in a **named** bag for **all** children as we regularly have water play and children often get wet! We only have limited supply of spare clothes! Also, if appropriate a change of nappies with wipes.

Sickness

If your child has experienced sickness or diarrhoea they may not return to Pre-school until they have been symptom free for 48 hrs under Ofsted guidelines. If your child has a temperature or is unwell enough to require "Calpol" please do not bring them into preschool.

Safeguarding - Reporting Absence

In line with Ofsted recommendations, please inform us if your child is to be absent for any reason; sickness, holiday, an appointment (yourself or your child), visiting family etc. For attendance of less than 80% could result in funding being withdrawn.

Lunch Club

Lunch club, on Wednesday's and Friday's is available for children approaching 3 years. You can book and pay half termly in advance at £2.50 or pay £3.00 on the morning. At Pre-school we promote healthy eating. Please cut cherry tomatoes, grapes, blueberries, etc in half and don't provide items that could be a choking hazard. We must also stress that **lunch boxes do not contain nuts or any products containing nuts as we have children with Nut Allergies, if Nut items are present in lunch boxes these will be returned unopened. Also please check best before/use by dates and please don't provide warm or hot lunches as lunchboxes are kept in a cool bags. If home cooked items (ie cakes) are included please let us know the ingredients.**

Thank you. To encourage an Independent school ready lunchtime, please ensure Lunch Boxes are child friendly – ie easy to open, not too many lidded boxes, foil instead of clingfilm and named. Thank you.

Fruit Share and Snack

Our fruit share has been very successful again. Thank you to all those parents who continually provide fruit each week, your support is gratefully received and means that we wont need to charge any additional costs towards snack. When providing fruit, please bear in mind that we do have a child with a pineapple allergy. Snack time is a wonderful opportunity for us to provide a social event for the children and encourage a language rich environment. We promote healthy eating and have a good array of fresh fruit which is encouraged for all, we supplement this with a bread product or cereal and a dried fruit option, so that we can cater for all children's likes and dislikes. Milk and Water is available at this time, with water being available for the whole session. If your child has any dietary needs or you have any preferences, please see Angie or Angela or your Key Person.

Stay and Play Sessions

Stay and Play sessions are a wonderful opportunity for you to see our preschool through your children's eyes. We invite you to come in to experience an hour of your child's day. During this time, your child will lead you to various activities in the hall or garden so you can play together. Staff are available to support your play and chat to, although if you want to speak about your children's specific development please arrange an appointment. We request no siblings on these dates so that you can have dedicate time for you and your preschool child and to ensure our toys are appropriate for the age of the children present.

Provisional Dates for the year – Monday 5th November. Friday 18th January. Wednesday 6th March. Thursday 16th May. Tuesday 4th June. These are subject to change. We would encourage you to participate in at least one if possible.

Staff updates and training

During the six weeks holidays, Angie, Julie, Mel and Erica will be attending first aid Training. Angie, Erica and Julie will also be attending safeguarding training. All staff complete an online course, every half term, to ensure we always are up to date with current practice.

Disabled Space

Please only park in this space if you are a disabled badge holder. This space is required by our parents and its imperative it be available for those who need it. Thank you.

Independence

To enable our children to be 'school ready' we encourage independence in an age appropriate way. This can be supported by you at home by allowing your child to help with clothing (including shoes and socks), putting on coats and hats and walking into preschool.

The Travelling Bear

Our Travelling Bear is continuing his adventures with you, this is an exciting opportunity for our teddy bears (we have 2) to come and stay with each of you for a weekend so that you can share your experiences with us through photos and the bears journal. If you've not had one yet, your turn will come! To allow all the children a turn, please make sure the bear is returned within a week. Thank you.

Preschool Facebook and Policies

Our Facebook page is 'Blackmore Community preschool – Blackmore, Essex'. Policies are available on our website – www.blackmorepreschool.co.uk

Parents Getting Involved

Please find attached an information sheet regarding the committee, we are always looking for more parent support so if you are interested in joining the committee please contact - info@blackmorepreschool.co.uk - Liz Caplan or Vicky Stoddart, Angela Taylor or Angie Bonnen.

Photo's

We would just like to reiterate that you can not publish any pictures or videos on any form of social media or share any pictures taken of our preschool children. Our Safeguarding procedures are in place to protect all children and as you have not been given parental consent you may not take photo's of other children. Taking photo's of your own child for personal use is obviously acceptable. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Please find attached a holiday sheet. It would be wonderful to see what your child has been up to during the break and a great opportunity to promote speech and confidence with them. Simply draw, write or add photos so that we can discuss this with your child and use the sheet as a prompt. Children love to share their experiences with us, so please do return them. Staff will also be completing them too, so look on the parents board for our examples in September.

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to the parents who have given generously this past year, we have purchased many items, including postman pat, paw patrol, magformers, play food and kindle fire. We are continually updating our toys to keep up to date with the children's interests and to ensure we offer a good selection of choice. If you have any ideas then please let us know as we are in the process of starting this year's wish list. Thank you again for your time, efforts and funds. Watch this space for future fundraising events, to include the Nearly New Sale, a pancake flip and spring bounce!

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

If your child is going to 'big school' in 2019, and you have signed up to afternoon sessions from September, then we look forward to working with you to get your child 'school ready'. Having reviewed the opening procedure for children arriving for just the afternoon on a Monday and/or Thursday, we would like you to enter the building, at 12.15pm, via the main doors and walk your child through the hall to the committee room door where a member of staff will meet you to welcome your child. Collection will be at 3.15pm in the usual way.

Informed and updated

Please find attached a form we need you all to complete. This is to ensure we are up to date with all contact details, emergency contacts and health issues. It is vital that we are informed of any changes to these. If you need to discuss any matters regarding your child, please speak to your key person, Angie Bonnen or Angela Taylor.