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Newsletter

Issue No.59 February 2020

Welcome Back

We hope you all enjoyed the Half term and welcome you back, along with a few new starters and Liz as Bank Staff.

Term Dates

Last day of term is Friday 3rd April
We return on Monday 20th April .
Stay and Play session –Thursday 12th
March 11.15 – 12.15 and 2.15-3.15pm
(These will be held throughout the year please see section below)
28th March –Family Bingo Night – more
details to follow from Committee
******* 7th May – Closed due to polling**
date – NEW DATE – PLEASE NOTE *****

Feb – May – Ofsted due back again

Pancake Flip

We issued pancake flip sponsor forms before half term and will be commencing the pancake flip challenge week commencing 25th February throughout the week during the usual session. This involves your child seeing how many times they can flip a pancake within a minute. Any funds raised will be used to purchase investigation toys and handwriting tools.

Nearly New Sale

Our annual Nearly New Sale was held in November and raised £264, thank you to the very few parents who came and supported us and the committee members who ran the event. We hope to see more of you in May. If you are interested in becoming a seller at our next nearly new which is on Saturday 2nd May 2020, please contact Blackmoreearlynew@gmail.com,

Reading – Show and Tell

Sharing a book with a child is fun - it's a time for closeness, laughing and talking together. It can also give children a flying start in life and help them become lifelong readers. We would like to remind you of our library books in the foyer that you are welcome to take home, share and return. Also, we would like to invite your child to bring in their favourite named book to share with us, we will read to them, discuss the book and return to you.

Working in Partnership with Parents

As part of the curriculum we support children with their handwriting skills, this doesn't just involve actual writing but steps they take to enable progress. The first thing children learn is what things do, ie pencils/crayons make marks, glue sticks things, they are learning cause and effect. children need to build up their core muscles, fine motor skills and hand eye co-ordination. Activities to promote these are threading, picking up beads with tweezers, sticking, building with construction, playing with playdough, using 'easy to hold' crayons and chalks. Using their finger in sand, shaving foam, gloop. When children are ready to hold a pencil we teach them to hold the pencil in a way that gives them more control, how much pressure to use and which direction we write. We also introduce the phonic sound for letters. Once they arrive at Reception class they are on their way to begin writing cursively. In order to support your child, please give them opportunities to strength hand eye co-ordination and fun ways to encourage them to paint, glue and draw. Thank you.



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 dedicated time for you and your preschool child and to ensure our toys are appropriate for the age of the children present.

The next Stay and Play will be Thursday 12th March.

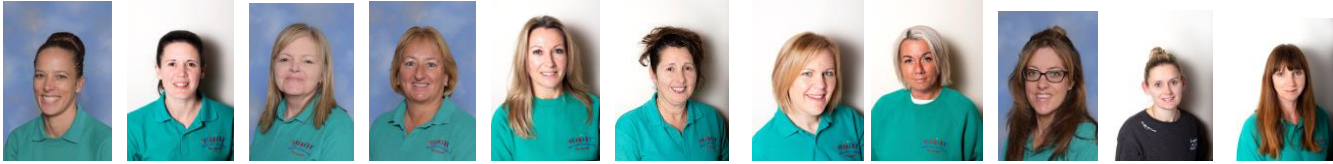
Provisional date for the year are: Friday 1st May -11.15 – 12.15 . We look forward to seeing you.

Safeguarding

In line with Ofsted recommendations, 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. When informing us of absences, please telephone or text rather than email as this is not checked every day. Thank you.

Safeguarding is an important part of our role, but do you know what it means - please see the last page for information issued by Essex County Council.

Staff Members



Angela Angie Karen Jane Melanie Julie Anna Lorraine Danielle Liz Emma

Curriculum Planning

This half term (February - March), during the morning sessions, we will be looking at taking part in the pancake flip and using our gross motor movements, exploring musical instruments, making lovely items for mother's day and exploring shapes. During the afternoons we will be practising our handwriting, taking part in yoga, looking in the wash bag and discussing healthy eating, we also have a visit from the bearded dragon planned. We will continue to look at jolly phonics and concentrate on 's', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i', 'n'. We will be introducing 'c' and 'k' and 'e'. During this time key workers continue planning for your child's individual development and each child is worked with at their own rate and level of understanding.

Staff Training

Staff will be participating in the following face to face courses – Mental Health Conference
Staff aim to complete 2 online training courses each term to keep up to date with current practice, including Understanding and Addressing Behaviour, SEND code of Practice, Revised Safeguarding (2019), Yoga in the Early Years.

'look what I can do'

To support your child's learning journal and to work in partnership with us, we invite you to complete a 'look what I can do'. These are blank certificates we hold in setting (usually in foyer), these are completed by you to celebrate your child's achievements at home and then shared with us. These can be big achievements or little ones – ie learning to ride a bike, learning to clean their own teeth, sleep alone, being kind to a sibling, counting, singing, etc.... These can be completed and returned anytime.

Children's coats

Please ensure coats are named and that pockets are empty of small items. Thank you.

Lunch Club

Please cut cherry tomatoes, grapes, blueberries, etc in half and don't provide items that could be a choking hazard. Please ensure **lunch boxes do not contain nuts or any products containing nuts, if Nut items are present in lunch boxes these will be returned unopened. If home cooked items (ie cakes) are included, please let us know the ingredients, or a note showing nut free. Thank you. If providing prawns or crabsticks, please place a cool pack in the lunch box with it please.** To promote healthy eating we request no chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks. Several lunch boxes are containing chocolate biscuits and chocolate yogurts, whilst we are sure these are super yummy we don't think they count as being healthy! Please refrain from putting them in lunchboxes so we can use the opportunity to introduce healthy eating through a sociable discussion. Thank you.

Don't forget to keep providing one piece of fruit a week. Thank you to those parents who do provide it regularly.

Comforters/toys

Thank you for leaving children's toys at home. Comforters are still welcome and will put in their bag when not needed to avoid unnecessary loss/damage to the item, but be given to your child when they need them. Many thanks for your help and support.

Financial Support

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

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

Arrival and Collection

A huge thank you for arriving and collecting on time, we have noticed a big effort by all of you and it is greatly appreciated.

Policies

Policies are available for you to view on our website – www.blackmorepreschool.co.uk. If you require a copy of these, please let Angie or Angela know.

Facebook/website home page

Please remember to check Facebook for updates and the link to join the closed group. If we are unable to open for any reason we will update our website home page and Facebook.

Provisional/Future dates

Next Viewings for all parents – April 2020 – Please see key person if you wish to meet before then.

Summer Trip – June 2020 – Date and place to be confirmed.

Whilst we aim to keep dates as they are, sometimes things happen out of our control but we will endeavour to give as much notice as possible of any changes. However, at this stage we don't anticipate any changes.



QUOTE OF THE TERM!



Popcorn is prepared in the same pot,
In the same heat,
In the same oil
And yet.....

The kernels do not **POP** at the same time.
Don't compare your child to others
THEIR TURN TO POP IS COMING.

YOGA

In the last newsletter we mentioned how Yoga and breathing exercises are scientifically proven to help relieve negative emotions while also teaching self-regularity tools. Physically it enhances flexibility, strength, co-ordination and body awareness. In addition it aids concentration, sense of calmness and relaxation. Here's a few poses to try at home!



Early Years and Childcare – Essex County Council



Your Child's Safety – 10 things you should know

What is safeguarding?

1. In a nutshell, safeguarding is about keeping children safe and protecting them from all types of harm.
2. Whether you use a childminder, nursery, preschool, holiday club, or after school club most providers have to register with Ofsted, who will inspect them regularly to make sure that your child has the best possible care. You can find out more in the guide *Inspecting registered childcare providers: information for parents* which is available on the gov.uk website.
3. All childcare providers have to keep your children safe whilst in their care and most providers will need to have a written policy about how they do this. You can ask to see this if it hasn't been shared with you.
4. Your childcare provider should share any concerns about your child with you. However, please be aware that they have a legal duty to report any worries that they may have if they suspect a child may have been harmed.
5. All childcare providers must have a person who is specially trained and qualified to manage any safeguarding concerns. You should be told the name of this person. If you are using a childminder, this will be the childminder themselves.
6. All staff working in early years and childcare settings must have checks before they are employed to make sure that they are suitable to work with your child.
7. When employing new staff a childcare provider must also obtain suitable references and should check them before they employ anyone.
8. All members of staff should have safeguarding training which is renewed regularly.
9. You should be told how to raise an issue or make a complaint if you are unhappy about anything.
10. Does your child have music lessons or attend a sports club or something similar? Take a look at the guidance *Choosing a club, tutor or coach?* which is available on the Essex Safeguarding Children's Board (ESCB) website along with more useful information at escb.co.uk

Making a complaint about your childcare provider

If you are concerned about any aspect of the care provided for your child, speak to the setting about your concerns. This will often solve most problems. If you are still not satisfied you might need to ask them about their complaints procedure. If you have made a formal complaint and feel it is unresolved you can contact Ofsted, which can investigate complaints or concern about the quality of childcare provided by Ofsted-registered childcare providers or childminders, or about people providing childcare who are not registered with them. Call them on **03330 123 4666**

If you have concerns for a child's safety or wellbeing call Health and Social Care on: **0345 603 7627**