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Newsletter

Issue No.65 September 2020

Welcome Back

We look forward to welcoming you all back from the extended break from 7th September 2020.

Term Dates

Last day of term is Friday 23rd October
We return on Monday 2nd November
Stay and Play On hold
Viewings On hold (alternative options to be agreed)

Full Academic Term dates – these were emailed out at the end of July, if you did not receive this, please let us know. Alternatively, they are available on our website. Final term dates (April – July 2021 are still to be confirmed by ECC)

Attached

Please find attached (In the email) various documents regarding our reopen –
Covid-19 Policy
Welcome back letter
All About me – Please complete and return by Thursday 3rd September

If you have any further questions, please email and we will try our best to answer these. Alternatively if you would like a telephone call email us your number and we will aim to ring you on Friday 4th September.

Staff Members



Angela



Angie



Karen



Jane



Anna



Lorraine



Danielle



Liz



Emma

In July we said goodbye to Julie and Melanie, who we wish all the best for the future. We are still actively searching for a new Manger and Deputy and will keep you posted on progress.

Staff Training

Staff aim to complete at least 1 online training course each term to keep up to date with current practice, including Understanding and Addressing Behaviour, infection control, SEND code of Practice, Revised Safeguarding (2019), Yoga in the Early Years.

Curriculum Planning

This Term (Sept - Dec), during the morning sessions, we will be settling back in, discussing feelings names and being active .

During the afternoons we will be introducing early handwriting, discussing feelings and taking part in yoga. We will begin to look at jolly phonics and concentrate on 's', 'a', 't'.

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.

Safeguarding - Reporting Absences

In line with Ofsted recommendations, if your child is to be absent for any reason; isolating, sickness, holiday, an appointment (yourself or your child), visiting family etc. You need to inform us ASAP, on the day of the absence. Attendance of less than 80% could result in funding being withdrawn.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.

General 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. See Covid-19 policy and welcome letter for further information on coronavirus symptoms and procedures. If in doubt, Stay home!

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.

Working in Partnership with Parents

As part of the curriculum we support children with their emotions. Our main focus this term will be resettling the children, discussing feelings and ways to cope with them. These will all be achieved through play and physical activities, ie yoga and mindfulness. Children experience complex feelings just like adults, they get frustrated, excited, nervous, sad, jealous, frightened, worried, angry and embarrassed. However, children aren't always able to voice these feelings but communicate them in different ways. You can support your child at home by giving names to feelings, ie when your child is Angry, you could say 'I can see your angry, can you tell me why?' or 'I can see your sad', etc.. This makes the feelings less scary, helps them identify them and helps them find appropriate responses. You could also try to support your child when they are feeling sad or angry (for instance) by offering suggestions (initially, until they can voice their own thoughts on what helps them), ie "when I feel sad, I like to hug the kitten" or "Blowing bubbles outside might help those angry feelings go away".

If you are concerned about your child, please speak to your Key Person or the Manager(s) who can offer you further support.

'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, 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.... We will place one in your child's bag this half term if you could complete and return.

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.

Arrival and Collection

Only one parent/carer is able to drop and collect at a time. Please line up 2m apart and drop at the main doors, parents are not allowed access without prior appointment, if you do need to speak to key person/manager, please telephone or text. Coats and bags to be hung on the coat hooks at the door and lunch bags in the bag provided. Thank you

Children's coats & bags

Please ensure coats are named, this is especially important at the moment as we need to be sure the correct coat goes on the correct child. We don't want any children upset when they can't go outside because we can't find their coat! Please check and that pockets are empty of small items.

Bags also need to be named, and each child must have one with at least one change of clothing. We will put any letters and art work in the bags so please check these regularly.

Thank you.

Comforters/toys

Comforters are the only items from home we will be allowing. Please do not bring any other toys in as we don't want upset children as they arrive. Many thanks for your help and support.

Don't forget to keep providing one piece of fruit a week. Please place this in your child's changing bag. Please only provide apples, oranges/satsumas or bananas.

Thank you

Lunch Club

Lunch club will only run for children doing full day sessions initially. If you are interested in prepaying for the Wednesday and/or Friday lunch club please let us know by email and we can start a waiting list. At the moment, we will use this time to do a deeper clean.

When providing lunch 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.!

Thank you.

Committee Members

Over the past few years it has become increasingly difficult to get parents involved with the Preschool Committee, but without a committee the preschool can't operate. We are always seeking members and are in need of at least 2 new members, you don't need a particular skill, or to attend every meeting but be willing to do a small amount of decision making regarding how the preschool is run. The managers and committee work together to make sure the preschool is a safe and welcoming place for your child to learn. If you are willing to support your child's preschool please speak to Angela or Angie, or email - info@blackmorepreschool.co.uk.

Billing/Fee's

With immediate effect we are changing the way we send out bills and can confirm that we will now be emailing them. The email address we will be using, just for billing, is billing@blackmorepreschool.co.uk. You may need to add this to your contact list so it doesn't end up in your junk folder! Invoices will be issued about 2 weeks before term end, so please look out for it. Thank you



Dear Parents/Carers

As I am sure you are aware Blackmore Community Pre-School is a committee lead registered charity which has managed itself on a very tight budget over many years. We rely heavily on the income from fundraising, fee paying children and the government funding for children who attend the pre-school.

For many years, we have prided ourselves on being able to provide sessions to children with no extra cost relying on the government funding we receive, but as the current situation has put a massive strain on our income we have made the difficult decision to ask for a £1 voluntary contribution per session for all children that attend the pre-school.

It will ensure we can continue to offer the best experience for our children, and the contribution will be put towards the general consumables that are used during each session. These include arts & craft supplies (e.g. paper, paint and playdoh) and other sundry items that help maintain the good quality of education for your child(ren) and provide the necessary resources needed to give them an enriching environment to allow them to flourish.

We really appreciate your support in contributing to the running costs associated with the pre-school and cannot stress highly enough how gratefully received this will be. It will go a long way towards the sustainability of the pre-school for this year, and the years to come.

For the term starting after October half term, we will send the additional information needed via email for you to make this contribution along with your usual billing.

If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to speak to Vicky Stoddart (Chair of Committee) or any other committee member.

We thank you in anticipation
Blackmore Community Pre-School Committee