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Early Summer Newsletter 2022

* Staffing updates
* Staff training information
* Nursery development plans
* Session bookings
* Reminders
* Dates for your diary

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Nursery development plans

Over the next year we have some exciting plans for Blue Door nursery, you will hear more about these as they develop! But as a taster …

We are going to replace the internal wooden doors at nursery with a pair of glazed security doors which will hopefully make it easier for parents at the end of the day. They will be able to get access to the porch (out of the rain) but will not be able to enter the nursery without a staff member permitting them.

We will be learning more about sustainability as a staff team and working with children and families to try and be as ‘eco-friendly’ as we can be.

We will be further developing the staff knowledge in terms of the back garden to link with our sustainability drive and also to encourage the children to think about different ways in which we can use the space we have.

We have no plans to increase the ratios at Blue Door, whatever the Government says…

**Blue Door staff training update…**

Lauren (Lions) has just submitted her dissertation for her Early Years degree and we fully expect to celebrating the award of her degree soon. Lauren joined us unqualified 9 years ago and has proved that it is possible to work your way to the very top of the profession if you follow your passion and work hard. We are immensely proud of her.

Claire (Lions) is continuing to add to her skills, knowledge and qualifications and is just finishing her SEND qualification which will allow her to support Ruth, our SENDCo, effectively.

Isobel (Kittens) is in the last stages of her management qualification and is growing in confidence as she deals with the day to day issues of running a busy nursery!

All staff have recently completed curriculum training in line with the new Early Years Foundation Stage framework so that all children can be supported to reach their full potential.

Kerry has settled really well into the Kittens’ team and is bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the group.

We have another Kerry who is starting soon with us in the Lions’ team. Kerry is another very experienced early years professional who has recently been working in a forest school environment. We are hoping to learn from her skills to develop our own practice.

We are also welcoming Rosie to the nursery who will be with us for a year on placement from her Early Years degree at Portsmouth university. Rosie will be covering Charlotte’s maternity leave,

We will be sharing with you soon the staffing arrangement for next academic year – some staff will be moving groups to extend and develop their professional experience.



Reminders:

Children must arrive for their session with sun cream already applied!

You must tell us if there are changes to pick up arrangements for your child

Please make sure that your child has a sun hat at nursery – which has their name on!

We have several parents and carers dropping off early or picking up late – staff will ask you to wait if you are early as we will not have the correct staff to accommodate extra children. Lisa will charge a late fee if you are late without notice.

If you need extra sessions you need to give us plenty of notice – we are having to disappoint people who give us just a few days notice of an important meeting or appointment they need to attend. We don’t like letting people down.

It is half term 30th May to 3rd June (incl.), term time only children return on 6th June

The Summer term finishes for term time only children on Friday 22nd July and the Autumn term begins on Monday September 5th

Nicky, the photographer, will be taking photos of all groups (not individuals) on the morning of Tuesday 14th June. Watch out for details on Tapestry.

The Leavers’ party will be in the afternoon on Tuesday 19th July – the Lions’ team will give you more information nearer the time.

Parents evening for the children who are leaving for school will be during the first week of July – we will be sending out details after half term.

If your child is leaving Blue Door this summer, please confirm to Lisa when they will be finishing. They can attend in September before they start school if necessary, but there is no funding unfortunately.

Session bookings for next year

If you are looking to add to your existing sessions can you tell us now as we are getting a lot of enquiries!

Government funding 15/30 hours

* When your child is 3 they are entitled to 15 hours funding. The date of your child’s birthday is significant:

3 between 1st April and 31st August – eligible from September

3 between 1st September and 31st December – eligible from January

3 between 1st January and 31st March – eligible from April

Lisa will give you a form to sign for the 15 hours funding – every 3 year old child is eligible for this

* If you are eligible for the 30 hours (parents working more than 16 hours, earning less than 100k each)

You have to apply for the funding yourself – email Lisa and she will send you details

* The funding is only paid for 38 weeks of the year. So you can come 38 weeks and use 15 or 30 hours a week. Or, you can ‘stretch’ your hours and come all year round using 11 hours or 24 hours a week. Again, email Lisa for details.
* The funding does not cover the full cost of the session so you will be asked to pay a small contribution or provide nappies, wipes, snacks etc for your child. The funding we receive is £1.60 below the cost of providing the session.
* If your child is 3 before 31st March 2023 you will need to book whatever extra sessions you think you might need **now** – so that you get what you want. If you send Lisa an idea of what you ‘might’ need we can work out how much it will cost you, how much funding you are using and make sure that you are getting the best value for money out of the funding.