

April 2024

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Warminster Bright Beginnings Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back from the Easter break, I hope it was filled with celebration and time well spent with loved ones. This term brings brighter days and sunshine as we break into the summer, allowing us the opportunities to explore the outdoors and the ever-changing seasons. We will be participating in many more trips this term, including estate walks, park trips and days out at Funways – you will receive letters home detailing these over the coming weeks.

I would like to welcome back the lovely Teresa. After leaving us a year ago, Teresa has returned full time to the setting. Teresa will be mainly working in The Meadow room.

Parents/Carers should now be receiving confirmation of their chosen child's school places, please can Parents/Carers inform staff of the school your child will be attending in September to allow us to start communication with the schools.

Kind regards,
Jo Webster

The settings **Annual General Meeting** will be held in the Community Centre on Monday the 26th of June 2024 at 7:30pm. We do need as many Parents/Carers as possible to attend as this is important in keeping the nursery up and running. If we do not reach the required attendance percentage of Parents/Carers, it can result in a closure of the setting. We hope to see as many of you as possible and thank you for your support.

Term Topics

The Woodlands (0-2 years)

Room Leader – Becky

This term we will be looking at how different things grow.

We will be comparing ourselves at the beginning and end of term as well as growing plants such as grass heads and looking at different size plant pots.

The Meadow (2~3 years)

Room Leader – Lucy

This term we will be talking about people that help us in society such as doctors, police, fire and dentist. We will have activities based on these such as a police station role play, teeth brushing and water play for firefighting.

The Treetops (3 – Rising 5's)

Room Leader – Jenny

This term we will be covering cultural capital by looking at the different occupations that the children may or may not come across in society. We will have relevant activities to access such as a salon role and hospital role play as well as construction building with different materials.



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Government-Funded Childcare

The upcoming expansion

Starting from May 12th 2024, eligible working Parents/Carers of children from 9 months old will be able to register to access 15 hours of government-funded childcare a week, with the offer beginning from September 2024.

The changes are being introduced gradually to make sure that providers can meet the needs of more families. This means that:

From **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 2-years-old.

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.

Like the existing offer, these hours can be used over 38 weeks of the year.

HOW MANY HOURS OF CHILDCARE CAN YOU GET PER WEEK?

<u>Age 9-23 Months</u>		<u>Age 2 Years</u>				<u>Age 3-4 Years</u>			
WORKING FAMILIES		FAMILIES RECEIVING SOME FORM OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT				ALL PARENTS			
15 HOURS	30 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	
SEPTEMBER 24	SEPTEMBER 25	NOW	APRIL 24	SEP 24	SEP 25	NOW	APRIL 24	SEP 24	SEP 25
		WORKING FAMILIES				WORKING FAMILIES			
		15 HOURS	15 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS
		APRIL 24	SEP 24	SEP 25	NOW	APRIL 24	SEP 24	SEP 25	SEP 25

To check your eligibility, go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Funding and Sustainability Fee

We would like to remind parents/carers that any child who is in receipt of the 3-year-old funding will be charged a sustainability fee of £4.00 per day (£2.00 per session) to cover the cost of paper, stationary, paints and pens etc.

Reheating Food

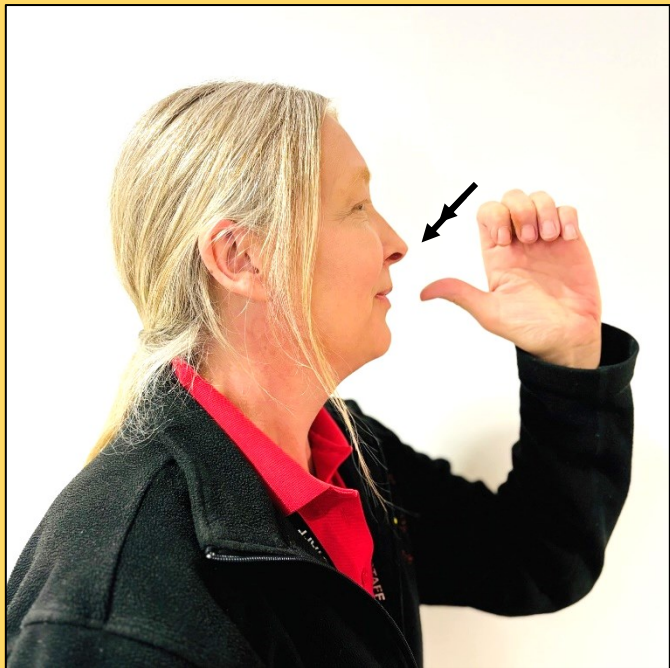
We must advise that we **cannot reheat rice or chicken on the bone**. Staff are happy to heat lunch time meals for the children however we only have access to a microwave. Please ensure you let staff know at drop off if you have provided food to be reheated.



Makaton Mission



Bird



Water



More



Help



Warmer Weather

As we begin to come into the warmer months of the year, we will be applying suncream to the children when playing outside. Within the next week you will receive a consent form which needs to be returned ASAP as well as the £5 annual fee.

We do ask that Parents/Carers only supply their own if their child has an allergy or medical exemption from the suncream we use. Parents/Carers must be reminded to always dress your child adequately for the weather and ensure you send your child in with a **labelled** sun hat and a full drinks bottle which the staff will encourage the children to drink throughout the day. As well as this we will be starting to plan more trips and outings within the community. We will always welcome and encourage Parent/Carer helpers to attend. Information regarding outings/trips will be given at a further date.

Parents/Carers Evening

We will be holding a Parents/Carers meeting on the 2nd of July from 04:30pm until 07:00pm. Invites will be sent home in the coming weeks for Parents/Carers to book their slots.

Treetops Graduation

On the Week Commencing 8th of July 2024, we will be holding a graduation ceremony for the children of the Treetops class. Some children will be invited on a day that is not usually their session, so we ask that Parents/Carers please stay for the duration and take responsibility for their child throughout. Parents/Carers will be individually invited in the coming weeks and we ask that you RSVP to these ASAP.

Holidays, Festivals and Events

April

- 1st – April Fool's Day
- 1st – Easter Monday
- 9th – 10th – Eid al-Fitr
- 18th – World Heritage Day
- 22nd – Earth Day
- 23rd – St. George's Day

May

- 1st – May Day
- 5th – Cinco De Mayo
- 6th – May Day Bank Holiday
- 7th – 11th – Eurovision Song Contest
- 27th – 31st – May Half Term
- 27th – Late Spring Bank Holiday

June

- 5th – Sausage Roll Day
- 15th – The King's Official Birthday
- 16th – Father's Day
- 16th – 17th – Eid ul-Adha
- 20th – Summer Solstice



30 Hours Funding

All children are entitled to 15 funded hours the term after they are three, the government has extended this to up to 30 hours a week for some working families. To

be eligible for this funding both parents (working single parents may also be eligible) need to be working 16 hours per week at the National Minimum or Living Wage.

To check if you are eligible go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If you are eligible, please let us know and we will check our availability to accommodate these hours and we will give you a permission form to put your details on, which will allow us to add your funding code to the portal.

Nuts and Cutting

Can we remind you that we have a **No Nut** policy and items such as chocolate spread or some chocolate bars can contain nut fillings, can we please ask that all food items are double checked before they are sent in.

Please also ensure foods are cut appropriately when in the children's lunches e.g., cocktail sausages, cherry tomatoes, strawberries, and grapes. These foods need to be **cut in half, length ways** to prevent the risk of choking. Can we also please ask that you use an icepack in lunch boxes to keep lunches cool.

Language and Communication

We will again be having many initiatives running through the setting this year to support the children's language and communication skills. On a regular basis the children in The Meadow and The Treetops enjoy activities taken from the I CAN Babbling Babies, Toddler Talk and Letters and Sounds. Treetops will have two new phonic sounds to learn every other week, your child will be provided with a collection tub and be asked to collect as many objects beginning with the phonic sound of the week. In order to complement this initiative, we will continue to use the Jolly Phonics programme, which supports children's communication skills phonetically. The Meadow will have books sent home, and we encourage parents/carers to read with your child to assist us in building a working partnership with parents/carers. We shall provide examples and information sheets to support you in helping your child.

There will continue to be story sacks available for you to borrow and enjoy with your child. The story sacks will contain such things as a book, soft toy, activity, song sheet and colouring page. If you are interested in taking one home, please see Jo Webster, Jo Spink or your child's key person. BLAST (Boosting Language, Auditory Skills and Talking) will be carried out with small groups on a six weekly rolling programme. Children in The Woodlands Class will be enjoying activities from Babbling Babies, please speak to your child's Key Person if you would like more information on this.

Wiltshire Local Offer

Every local authority is responsible for publishing a Local Offer and making sure it is clear, comprehensive, and available for everyone to see. The Local Offer provides information on the services available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) aged between 0 to 25, and how to access them.

<https://localoffer.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6206/What-is-Local-Offer-about>

Late Fees

Due to staff/children's ratios and safety it is extremely important that all children are picked up on time. A late fee of £6 for the first 15 minutes will be charge and an additional £6 for any part of any 15 minutes thereafter. For a child picked up after 4pm a late fee of £20 for the first 15 minutes will be charged and an additional £20 for any part of any 15 minutes thereafter.

COVID 19

We no longer require children to be tested for COVID 19, however we do still ask that parents/carers do not bring children to nursery for 3 days following symptoms typical of the virus. For general illness such as a runny nose and cough, children may still attend the setting if they are well in themselves and not taking Calpol for anything other than teething.



Dates for your Diary

- 12th May – Registration opens for government-funded childcare
 - 26th June – AGM
 - 2nd July – Parents/Carers Evening
 - W/C 8th July – Treetops Graduation

Summer Term Dates 2024

15th April 2024 - 31st August 2024

- 1st April Easter Monday
- 15th April Return to nursery
- Closed 6th May May Day
- 24th May Break up for half term
- 27th May Spring Bank Holiday

Closed 27th May – 31st May

- 3rd June Return to nursery
- 16th June Father's Day
- 22nd July Break up for half term
- Closed 23rd and 24th July Teacher Training Day
- 2nd September Return to nursery



Please follow us on Facebook for up-to-date news and information, closures, and reminders. This is a private group for parents/carers only. You will find us under Warminster Bright Beginnings.