Newsletter

Welcome back to a new academic year at Kempshott Under Fives. Our new children have settled in amazingly well and our returning children have all grown so much over the holidays, it's lovely to see everyone. Here's our first news of the term – please also take note of our housekeeping section that contains some important and useful information.

Settling in

The start of a brand new term can be a difficult time for young children and the first few weeks of settling into a new environment is a time of crucial importance to a child's later happiness within a setting. All children are individuals, and while some children will adjust fairly easily and quickly to a new environment and new routines, others will take longer to feel comfortable and secure. At Kempshott Under Fives we work hard to ensure that all children settle happily – but if you have any concerns, please come in and talk to us, we're here to help!

Tapestry

Your child's week at Kempshott Under Fives is documented on a system called Tapestry. Each week we will post lots of pictures on Tapestry so that you are able to see our week in pictures. We also record any individual wow moments and some key observations throughout the year. You should have received an email with login details, so please log in and have a look. If you have any trouble logging in, please let us know.

We will be allocating key carers over the next week or so, and will let you know which staff member has been allocated as your child's key carer.

In the Moment Planning

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, where children learn through games and play. We use "in the moment' planning, this involves observing the children when they are deeply engaged in playing and seizing the moment when children show an interest in something by immediately supporting their next steps at that precise moment. We follow a core curriculum and then engage with the children to teach next steps and extend their thinking. If you would like more information about our planning and curriculum, please feel free to chat with us.

January Sessions

Session request forms for January will be sent out in a few weeks time. If you would like additional sessions, please return these by the deadline stated on the letter. As always, we will do our very best to accommodate all requests, but we cannot guarantee first choices of days and sessions.

AGM – NEW COMMITTEE ROLES AVAILABLE!

Our preschool AGM will take place on 20th November – full details will be emailed out soon. Your attendance at the AGM is very important, so please save the date. **Very importantly, we are on the lookout for volunteers to join our fabulous preschool committee**. If you could spare a little time to get involved with your preschool committee, please register your interest with Louise.

Please Label Belongings

It's very hard to keep track of all of the children's belongings, so please label everything! We have a number of children with identical water bottles and a few matching lunch boxes. Please also label all clothes, bags, coats, water bottles, lunch boxes etc.

Snack donations

Just a little reminder that we do not currently charge additional fees for snack. Instead, we ask for a small, voluntary contribution into our snack pot. There is no set fee, this is discretionary, but please could you remember to keep adding any contributions to our snack pot – either weekly or termly - to help us with the costs of our snack each day.

House Keeping

NO NUTS in lunchboxes, NO POPCORN in lunchboxes & PLEASE SLICE GRAPES

We have children in preschool with **severe allergies** to nuts and traces of nuts. We are a completely **nut-free** preschool so please don't include nuts, or nut-based products (Including chocolate spread) in packed lunches. Please **DO NOT PACK POPCORN**, this is a choking hazard and always **SLICE GRAPES AND MINI SAUSAGES** - whole grapes are a serious choking hazard to preschoolers, please slice lengthways..

Healthy Eating

We promote healthy eating for our children at Kempshott Under Fives – please could you support this by packing healthy options for your child in their lunchbox. Healthy options could include breadsticks, sugar free jelly, fromage frais and malt loaf. Little tubs of vegetables sticks and/or cubed fruit are also great lunchbox choices. **Please remember to pack spoons for yoghurts and a drink or water bottle.**

Asthma Inhalers

If your child has asthma and has been prescribed an inhaler, please ensure you bring an inhaler and spacer into preschool with your child. Please do not leave these in bags – please hand to a member of staff.

Wellies and waterproofs

Please could you always send your child with (named) wellies and waterproofs! We use the garden whatever the weather, and we have lots of water play all year round too. Unfortunately we cannot store any personal items or clothes at preschool.

Easy clothing!

At KU5s we encourage children to practice skills which make them independent, such as taking themselves to the toilet and taking off and putting on outdoor clothes (great preparation for school, especially for PE lessons!). Please could you encourage this at home and also dress your child in "easy clothing" for preschool to help them manage these tasks. Belts on trousers can be very frustrating so elasticated waists are preferable, as are Velcro straps or pull on shoes and boots.

Accidents Outside of Preschool

Please inform us at the start of your child's sessions if they have had an accident at home. It is helpful for us to know of a pre-existing injury just in case we are unsure if it happened whilst at preschool.

Quarantine Reminder for Sickness and Diarrhoea

Just a little reminder that if your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea they should not return to preschool until they have had at least 48 hours clear. This will help prevent the spread of the virus and also help protect staff from illness.

30 hours funding

If you are claiming 30 hours childcare, please remember to keep your account up to date. To keep your 30 hours funding, you need to check your details are up to date every 3 months. Go to gov.uk/childcareaccount .

Prescribed Medication

Please speak to a member of staff to ensure full details are given and recorded should your child require medication to be administered.

Help Raise Funds for our Preschool

As you know our preschool is a charity, so fund raising is vitally important to us - it helps us update and add to our toys and resources for the children. There are a couple of easy ways to help us raise some much needed additional funds - you could be helping us raise money each time you shop online...
You can raise valuable funds for our preschool when shopping online with many retailers such as John Lewis, Sainsburys, Argos, M&S and many more… Just by registering with easyfundraising.
Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping fundraising site. It's simple to use and it doesn't cost you anything!
You could help our preschool so much, just by logging in to easyfundraising and going shopping!
- https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hatchwarrenu5s/
Once you've registered - perhaps you could spread the word to family and friends to help us raise more!

Dates for your Diary

Monday 27th Oct -Friday 31st Oct	Preschool closed. HALF TERM.
Monday 3rd November	Return to preschool
Thursday 20th November	AGM – @ Kempshott Under Fives Preschool
Wednesday 17th December	Last preschool sessions
Thursday 18th December	Christmas party – all children (AM)
Friday 19th Dec – Friday 2nd January	Preschool closed. CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday 5th January	Return to preschool for new term

Full term dates are listed on our calendar, which you can view on our website here:
https://hatchwarren.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk/diary/list/

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