

Birchfield Nursery School

Newsletter January 2017

A New Year

Welcome back to all our children and families and a Happy New Year, I hope 2017 brings everyone health and happiness. We would also like to welcome our new children and families who started with us in January.

Session Times

A number of children are being collected quite late from nursery, (please let us know if there is an emergency and you will be late, we can then reassure your child that you are on the way). Some children are being collected late on a regular basis, this makes it difficult for staff to set up for the afternoon session and manage to have a break and some lunch before the afternoon children come. We also hold our meetings after school at 3.45pm. We do understand it is sometimes difficult if you are collecting children from other settings but we don't want our children to miss the sessions they are entitled to.

Please note our nursery session times are:-

8.30am -11.30am (Doors are open between 8.30 and 8.45am and 11.15-11.30am.)

12.30pm – 3.30pm (Doors are open between 12.30 and 12.45pm and 3.15-3.30pm.)

Nursery is closed and doors shut at 11.30am and 3.30pm.



Collecting your child during session

If you need to collect your child during a session for any medical appointments or emergencies, please let us know and ring the bell/knock at the front door, we will bring your child to you to sign out, this is in line with our safeguarding procedures during the school sessions to keep all the children safe.

Clothing and shoes

It is really important that you name all your child's clothing and their shoes/wellies/pumps.

At this time of the year the children need to change into wellies when it is wet outdoors, the staff work hard to help them but at the moment we are finding it really difficult as a lot of clothing and shoes do not have any names in. This is also very important with the school sweatshirts. Many children wear the same size shoes, have the same coats or wellies, it is much easier to get things returned if they are named. Please help us by making sure everything is named and that all your child's belongings are taken home at the end of each session. The only thing that we have room to leave in school is your child's wellies, please put them together and store in the cubby hole under their coat.



Staffing update

Miss Sarah Millington will be leaving us at half term in February to start her maternity leave. She is expecting her second child and we wish her all the best. Mrs Emma Knight will be taking over as key carer group for the Badgers to cover the maternity leave.

Mrs Karen Millington will be off school for a while as she is having treatment for breast cancer, we send her all our love and best wishes.

Mrs Hooton is the key carer for the morning rabbit group of children, all of them have started in January and are settling in well.

Mrs Liku has recently become a Specialist Leader in Education for Early Years, the only SLE for Early Years in Halton. Part of her role will involve training and supporting other schools, settings and other early years practitioners. Mrs Liku is also our SENCO, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator as well as our Assistant Head teacher. We felt it would be fairer to the children in the duck afternoon group to have Mrs Hooton as key carer for this term rather than having different people all the time when Mrs Liku is carrying out her other responsibilities. Mrs Liku will continue to have one afternoon a week with the duck group.

What are we doing this half term?

We are focusing on the sessions and thinking about seasonal changes in Winter, we will be doing lots of science activities with ice, colour mixing, winter collage and paintings. We have sparkly winter playdough with glitter in. We have lots of investigative activities around nursery, frozen tiles, winter sensory troughs, minty gloop, ice cubes with things frozen inside, artic environments for small world play. We will be sharing lots of winter stories, maybe you have some good stories and poems at home that you can share with us. We have also set up a whole nursery singing session on Mondays to learn some of our winter songs.

Soon we will be learning about Chinese New Year, we will have lots of fun activities to try, we will be learning about the country China and how people celebrate. We will also be having some Chinese snack food and playing I-spy and describing games with Chinese artefacts.

Mini Rugby Presentation



Ducks and Squirrels have really enjoyed their rugby sessions over the past 10 weeks. Stuart will be coming along on Wednesday 8th February to do a short presentation to the Ducks and Squirrels to say well done for learning lots of new skills and taking part. If your child is in either the Duck or Squirrel group and you would like to stay for the presentation, in the morning it will be at 8.45am and the afternoon will be 12.45pm. Please drop your child in their room and then

wait under the canopy for the presentation.

After half term the other groups will be starting rugby sessions, we will send out a further letter to those groups before half term.

Key Strings



Key Strings is an entertaining and educational live music experience for children aged 3 to 11. Formed over 15 years ago by experienced music teachers, the Key Strings team of professionals bring a wealth of experience in both music and education to every performance. With both music and teaching backgrounds, our team are specialised in providing exceptional musical education, packaged in an entertaining and memorable experience, for the entire school!

We communicate the important educational elements of the curriculum, but also enable children to see that **MUSIC IS FUN!** Key strings are visiting our school on **Thursday 2nd February**, we will be funding this from school fund as we believe it is really important that our children have access to live music.

The morning session will be 10.25am – 11.25am and the afternoon will be 12.45pm – 1.45pm. Doing these sessions close together has meant we can save some money but it does mean the morning session will finish a bit later, if you can pick your child up at 11.30 that would be really helpful on that day or if you wish you can come in and listen to the end of the performance at 11.15am. If you can make sure your child is in nursery for 12.35pm in the afternoon this will mean we can start the performance on time. Thank you for your help with this.

Small Junk for modelling needed

If you have any small boxes, tubes, small plastic packaging, lids, different shape plastic that we can use to make 3D models with the children we would be grateful if you could bring it to nursery for room 3. Please note this is small junk modelling, we do larger 3D modelling under the canopy when the weather improves.

A big “Thank you”

We raised £170 with the Christmas raffle, this goes into school fund. We also received donations from some parents and £250 from Widnes Rotary Club. We are going to use some money from school fund to pay for some planters and gardening equipment so the children can plant some flowers and vegetables during the next few weeks. Each key carer group will have their own planter to look after.

Lindsey Weedall and all the staff

