



Pre-School News



This term has flown pass, I can remember wishing you all a Happy New Year and now we are in February already. The children spent January investigating winter weather, clothing and warming winter foods. They learnt about animals that hibernate and compared animals that live in different habitats such as the Arctic.

The children learned about Chinese New Year celebrations and this being the Year of the 'Dog' they heard the famous fable of the Emperor and the animals and we discussed Chinese culture, they made Chinese lanterns, looked at Chinese foods, the tradition of money envelopes and dressed in Chinese clothes. The children also listened to world music and made their own instruments to explore the different sounds they can make using different methods.

Towards the end of term the children discussed the different types of toppings they liked to eat on pancakes and about healthy options. During Circle time we talked about those that were dear to them, learning about love and friendships, sharing & caring for one another and discussed how they could show appreciation. . The children got creative by making greeting cards to send this message home



I am pleased to announce that we have a new member of staff here at Southgate. Ramune Hassan a lovely mum of two girls, she is a qualified Nursery Practitioner and has been working in a nursery environment for more than 7years.

Extra Curricular Activities

Football sessions and Tatty Bumpkin have been running successfully. The children really enjoy running about in the garden practicing their skills despite the cold unpredictable weather. They are learning to follow instructions and to be more skilful when moving around, negotiating space and learning to change direction and avoid obstacles. Tatty Bumpkins sessions are teaching the children all about balance and movement to stretch and strengthen large muscle groups in a fun way through stories and music.

For the remainder of February when we return, we will be looking at flowers and the onset of spring, then the love and care of our family and friends. We will end the month looking at our favourite books and traditional tales.

Dates for your Diary

Shrove Tuesday- 13th February 2018

Valentine's Day- 14th February 2018

Chinese New Year - 16th February 2018

Half Term -Monday 12th February –Friday 16th February 2018

Start of Term – Monday 19th February 2018

Invoices and Payments

Just a reminder that the 2nd instalment of your Spring Term invoice is due by **Friday 23rd Friday 2018** , Where possible we prefer payments to be made by direct bank transfer and our bank account details are as follows:-

Sort Code: 40-20-23
Account no: 61627759
Account name: Bright Stars Preschool

Changes to Payment Methods

Please note that we will no longer be accepting credit card payments with effect from 14th January 2018. This has not been a service greatly used by parents and the escalating costs of providing this method has meant that we cannot continue to offer this payment method. We would encourage parents to utilise online and telephone banking to process payments at their convenience or to call head office on 01992 676631 in order to make a debit card payment over the phone from 9am – 5.30pm. If there are any issues or concerns as a result of this change please contact Linda at Head office.

Sorry we are unable to take Cash/Cheque payments.

Reminders

No nuts at pre-school, this includes some cereal bars, pesto, nutella chocolate spread and also peanut butter. All these items contain nuts and cannot be given to the children for their lunch.

No sweet treats or chocolates, they are not part of a healthy lunch so can we ask not to include any in your children's lunch

Please cut Grapes into quarters following recent publication on choking hazard leading to fatality.

Please label your children's belongings, so many children have the same hats and coats, clothes or bags and it can be so difficult to work out which piece of clothing belongs to your child, a quick check of their name means they can be off to play rather than searching for ages or worse still it goes missing.

If your child uses a pram and it is left on site then please label these also. Scooters cannot be stored at pre-school.

Please remember to check on a regular basis that your children's change bags are stocked with nappies and wipes. Please note if your child needs **nappy cream** this **must be in your child's change bag**.

If you drive to preschool then please **DO NOT PARK in front of the school gates** and be considerate of the residents who often become blocked in at this busy time and cannot gain access/exit as some parents are double parking.

Please ensure we have update contact numbers on record in case of emergency

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)

Our Preschool Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is me **Mira Backory** and **Karma Khosla**, if you have any concerns regarding your child learning or developmental needs then please feel free to come and have a chat. Furthermore if you have consulted any outside agencies for support or concerns then please do keep me informed so I can ensure we are providing the best possible learning environment for your child.

Pre – School Speech and Language Advice – Do you have any concerns about your child's speech or their understanding?

There are local free drop in centres where you can take your child for an assessment or for advice on how to support your child's speech or communication needs. The qualified speech therapists team are able to confirm whether your child would benefit from support sessions.

Children's Centres Therapeutic Team – Are you worried about your child's development or behaviour?

You can book an appointment in a 'Time to Talk' session at children's centres if you have any worries or concerns about your child, they are free and confidential.

Leaflets for both can be found in the main hall, please help yourself or ask me for information

*My Next Newsletter will be in March and monthly thereafter
I look forward to keeping in touch with you all.*

Contact Details:

<p>Mira Backory Nursery Manager Senco & Safeguarding Officer TEL: 0208 886 9400 (Mon-Fri 8am-4pm) Email: mira@brightstarsnursery.ltd.uk</p>	<p>Karma Khosla Deputy Manager Safeguarding Officer TEL: 0208 886 9400 (Mon-Fri 8am-4pm)</p>
<p>Helen Regan Operations Director Littlebury, College Road, Cheshunt EN8 9NQ TEL: 01992 676631 (Monday to Friday 09:00am-5:30pm)</p>	<p>Claire Gopoulos Proprietor Safeguarding officer claire@brightstarsnursery.ltd.uk EMERGENCY MOBILE ONLY: 07717220381</p>