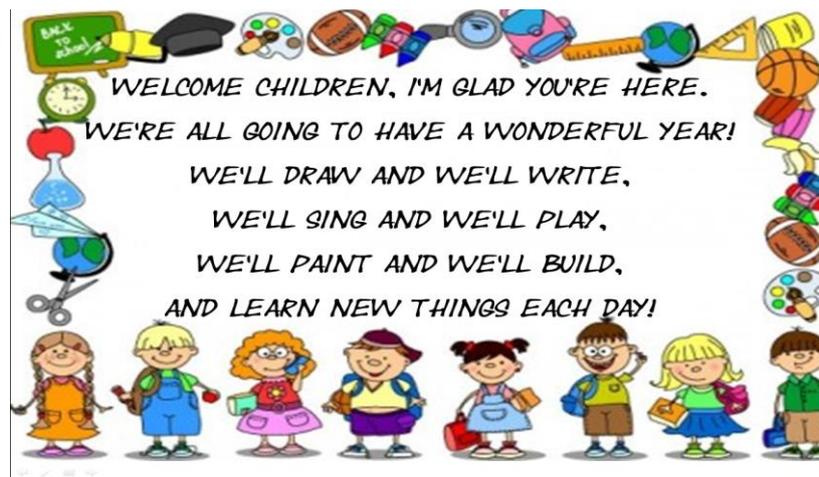




# Pre-School News

## OCTOBER 2018



Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome to the Autumn Term, new beginnings for some and welcome back to those who were with Bright Stars last year. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break although it seems a distant memory now. We extend a warm welcome to our new Deputy Manager Christalla Bardy who joined us this term.

### Newsletter

We circulate a newsletter every month to inform you of important information regarding your child's learning and notify you of upcoming events for your diary. Please do keep yourselves informed about the Pre-School and take the time to read the Parent Handbook, you will also find our Policies and Procedures in a folder in the main hall.

### Electronic methods of Communication

We use mainly electronic methods of conveying communication to you and it is important therefore that you ensure you update us with your email address and any changes to this. You will receive newsletters, invoices and payment requests and any other correspondence from us by email. If you do need to receive a printed copy of any forms of communication, then please let me know.

## iconnect & iconnect ParentZone

As some of you are already aware we use an electronic observation system (called iconnect) at our pre-school. This system enables us to monitor your children's progress through the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and take learning observations in a fraction of the time it has taken us previously. This means that we will have so much more time to play, teach and care for the children instead of spending time on paperwork. Our nursery practitioners use the electronic tablets in the room to take photographs and videos of your children at learning and play. This information is then linked to areas of the curriculum and uploaded onto your child's records.

'Parent Zone' enables parents to login to your child's record and see a timeline of their days at nursery with photos, videos and notes on your child's activities. In addition, 'ParentZone' enables you to add your own observations on your child from home and upload photos directly from your Smartphone which can then be used to link home and nursery learning for your child. ParentZone also has the added benefit of enabling you to login and access your invoices and payment information.

## Invoices and payment

The "Current Balance" figure at the top left-hand side of your invoice is the amount payable and takes account of fees payable less any deductions for deposit paid or NEG funding. For your convenience payment of invoices can be made in two instalments, the second of which should be made by **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**. If you are paying monthly by childcare vouchers, then you may need to make additional payments in the event of a shortfall between the voucher amounts and your actual invoice and these additional payments should be made on the dates above. Where possible we prefer payments to be made by direct bank transfer and our bank account details are below although we are also able to take credit/debit card payments over the telephone with Linda Branch in our Head Office: -

Sort Code: 40-20-23

Account no: 61627759

Account name:  
Bright Stars Preschool

*Please note we cannot accept cash or cheques at the Pre-School, all payments must be made directly to Head Office.*

Our daily fees are £38.50 per day. If you have any queries regarding your invoice or payments, then please call; Linda Branch on: 01992 676631.

## Admission to Primary Schools September 2019

If you live in the London Borough of Enfield and have a child who was born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 your child will be starting reception class in primary school September 2019. Parents are asked to apply online at;

[www.enfield.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/admissions)

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2019.

Following this the National Offer Day is 16 April 2019. If you would like any further information you can contact the Enfield school admission service on; 0208 379 5501

## Collection of your Child

Please ensure that we have details of anyone else you have given permission to collect your child and please inform us on the day if someone else is due to collect. Please ensure we have a **password** for your child on file which should be quoted by any authorized people who collect your child. Please appreciate that we cannot release a child to anyone other than the person who normally collects the child without prior arrangement.

## Children's' Belongings

We would be grateful if **all items**, i.e. cardigans, jumpers, jackets and all lunch boxes could be clearly labelled with your child's name. Please also ensure that all lunch boxes have an ice pack inside to keep lunch cool. We would also request that lunch boxes do not contain any peanut products and no sweets or chocolates.

## Vaccinations

Do make sure that your child has all their immunisations up to date in accordance with recommendations from your GP, Health Visitor and National Guidelines. Now that your child is starting pre-school they are exposed to many more viruses and the possibility that they may have bumps, scrapes and possibly accidents so ensuring that they have had the appropriate immunisations does limit their vulnerability.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



'Super Soccer' has been very popular and we will be continuing these sessions on Mondays, the charges are £4 per 30-40min session. The sessions are full for this term; however, I can put your child's name down for the spring term.

Tatty Bumpkins is a firm favourite with the children and we run these Friday afternoons. The sessions are 30mins and cost £4 per session. There are still some places left.

Should you wish to enlist your child please see me as there is a form to complete. Charges for the activities will be added to your invoice for the term.

## Foundations for Phonics & Time to Talk Activities

We run 'Time to Talk' and 'Foundations for Phonics' programmes which consist of weekly small group sessions, Time to talk sessions focus on communication, language and literacy development. This programme is offered to children who will begin primary school in the year 2019. This programme requires the participation of parents and carers at home and you will be receiving work sheets for your child to practice once a week.

'Foundations for phonics' sessions support early auditory skill development to listen and to use sounds to become skilled at understanding and using phonics which support reading and writing. There is also the follow up 'Supersonic Phonic Activities' to further support learning.

## Curriculum Planning All About Me

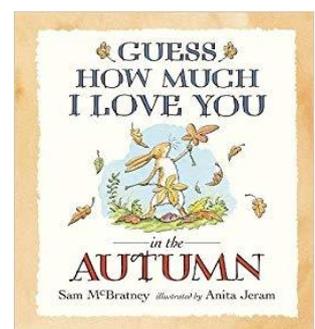
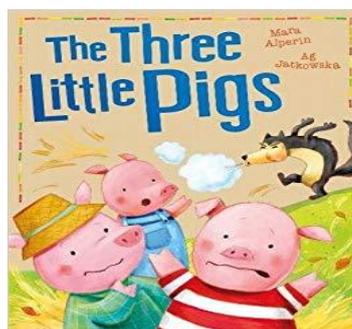
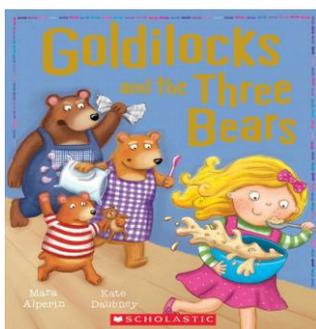
This month we have been concentrating on getting to know one another and what makes us unique, different and the same. From our planning we looked at the following

- *All About Me* - My facial features, My eye colour, My hair type and colour and My skin tone.
- *My Family* - My Parents, People I live with, my siblings, my grandparents and other members of the family that are significant.
- *My friends* - what is a friend? What makes a good friend and my friends are ...
- *My Home* - Types of homes, features of homes and where I live, (Southgate/ London/ England)

Finally, we observed the significance of the Harvest festival. Helping others and giving back to the community.

## Focus Improvement – Reading/ Book corner

As Part of improving quality teaching and learning in our pre-school we have been focusing on our reading area for the month, the children have been looking at a book a week, learning about the characters and depicted emotions, contextual settings, discussing the pictures and predicting what might happen next. They are looking at different types of books, magazines, comics, brochures, maps and print in the environment. They are learning about questions and answers and book related language. To enhance their experiences of books the children have engaged in making props and role playing their favourite characters.



These are the books we have been concentrating on with the children over the month.

*We will be sending a book home with a reading record every other week on a Friday for you to share with your child. Please may we ask that you take care of the books and should the book get lost or destroyed we kindly ask that it is replaced. All borrowed books should be returned on Mondays with a completed book review contained in the reading record book.*

The Yearly Plan of themes or topics can be located next to the weekly plan on the notice board in the main hall. The weekly plan is more detailed of the learning areas and activities on offer to extend children's learning

skills and knowledge. We plan from the children's interests and develop their learning following the EYFS Framework. We would appreciate any items of interest from your travels abroad or indeed from home that reflect your culture and ethnicity.

## Special Books

Each year we do a Special Book on each child which contains pieces of their favourite work and individual focus planning. To get the profiles up and running for the new children, please can we have as soon as possible the following photos of your child: -

- baby photo and recent photo
- 1 x family photo

## Keyworker Lists

If you are unsure about your child's Keyworker then please speak to me and I will let you know who they are during the settling in period of two weeks. We will have a list of children and their Keyworkers on the Notice Board by the table at the entrance to the hall which you can refer to. This board does contain other information which may also be of interest to parents.

## Storage of Buggies, Scooters etc...

Unfortunately, we are unable to store scooters; they are a tripping hazard and we cannot allow the children access to use these; also, it makes it more difficult for us to keep the nursery clean. We can store your buggies in the garden under the shelter at the end near our storage sheds.

## Christmas Party

We hold a Christmas party for children at the end of term in December and organise for an entertainer to come in which the children thoroughly enjoy. The cost of this party is £12.50, and this is added to your term's invoices. The date of the party will be set following the half-term in October and if your child will not be attending the party then we will arrange to credit this amount to your account if you advise us beforehand.

## Contact Details:

This is important , please make a note of the following contact information:

Mira Backory  
Nursery Manager  
Senco & Safeguarding Team  
TEL: 0208 886 9400  
MON-FRI 8am-4pm  
Email: [mira@brightstarsnursery.ltd.uk](mailto:mira@brightstarsnursery.ltd.uk)

Helen Regan  
Operations Director  
Safeguarding Team  
Head Office Tel: 01992676631  
MON-FRI 9am-5.30AM  
Email: [helen@brightstarsnursery.ltd.uk](mailto:helen@brightstarsnursery.ltd.uk)



# 5 Minute Fun

For grown-ups *and* little ones 

Challenge your child to create some simple animal moves, Shout 'snake' then 'lion', 'starfish', 'hippo' and 'meerkat' etc. and see what moves they come up with for each.