

Little Ashes Pre-School Newsletter

November 2021



Welcome to the November Newsletter. Please read and stay updated with everything that is happening at LAPS.

COMMITTEE & AGM NEWS

This year's Pre-School Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on **Tuesday 5th October at 8pm** at Great Brickhill Cricket Club.

Thank you to all our parents who attended the AGM and for joining our Committee, our new committee is as follows: -

We would like to welcome John Breslin, Pelham Warren and Rebecca Bullimore to the committee and thank you to Graham Whitehouse, Claire Pincott and Jodi Colbron for remaining on the committee for another year. The Officer positions are as follows: -

Graham Whitehouse – Chair

Claire Pincott – Secretary

John Breslin – Treasurer

Jodi Colbron – Designated Safeguarding Officer

With Christmas around the corner we are currently looking for some of you lovely parents to form our new **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE** 😊

In the past our Fundraising Committee have helped the main committee plan and organise various fundraising events, which has always managed to raise some money to fund new resources and equipment for the children at Little Ashes.

Due to COVID many planned events had to be cancelled. So if there is anyone who may have some lovely ideas for different fundraising events that we could hold from now or in the future, please share your interest with Claire Pincott 07870583182 who will be happy to give you some more information.

Term Dates

Autumn Term

Christmas Nativity: Thursday 16th December 2021

Last day of Term: Friday 17th December 2021 at 12pm (No Lunch Club or Forest School)

Spring Term

Return to Pre-School: Wednesday 5th January 2022

Break up for half term: Friday 18th February 2022

Return to Pre-School: Monday 28th February 2022

Break up for Easter: Thursday 7th April 2022 (normal closing times)

Monday & Friday Mornings

We will start taking groups of children out of the session to do enrichment focused activities with Becca and Julia on a Monday and Friday morning. The groups will go to our Forest School, Allotment or local Farm during these sessions. So if your child attends the morning session on a Monday & Friday, please can you make sure that they are fully equipped with appropriate clothing, waterproofs and wellies ☺

Staffing

We've had a few staff changes and have expanded our team and have plans to extend it even further! Firstly, our Leader Helen has made the difficult decision to step down as Leader and after a gruelling and intense interview Charlene has accepted the role as our new Pre-School Leader. Helen really did not want to leave the LAPS family and we also did not want to lose her as a practitioner either, so luckily for us she has decided to share the Deputy role alongside Nat part-time.

Some of you should have already met our new Pre-School Assistant Penny who joined us at the end of September. Penny joins the Little Ashes team with many years of childcare experience and knowledge and the children all love her! Penny currently works Tuesday Mornings and Thursday & Friday all day.

We have also employed a new Financial Administrator who joined us at the beginning of this academic year.

If your child is unable to attend Pre-School due to illness, medical appointments or holidays; You **must** inform the Pre-School leader via email, phone or in person.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR LITTLE ASHES PRE-SCHOOL: 07855215154 Leader@littleashespreschool.co.uk

ACTIVITIES THIS HALF TERM

I am delighted to say how well the children are continuing to settle and be fully involved in our Pre-School and Forest School sessions. This half term leading up to Christmas is flying by and over the coming weeks we will continue to support the children with helping them to understand and follow the setting's thumbs up rules and continue to support them to be engaged and busy with activities.

This half term we have already looked at Halloween, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Animals that Hibernate as topics. This week our focus has been on Polar World and looking at Ice and Snow and the last three weeks of term we will be looking at all things CHRISTMAS!!!! We will be organising a few cooking activities during the next few weeks, as well as Christmas Crafts which the children will take home, the Pre-School Nativity and party day.

We supported Children in Need **Friday 19th November** and the children came into Pre-School in their PJs and Onesies which they loved! We were able to raise **£56!!** Thank you all for your donations 😊

****Please be aware, that not all children attend everyday so unfortunately there may be some activities that your child may miss.***

Winter is coming

Please don't forget to send a warm waterproof coat and wellies into Pre-School for your child every day. With the cold weather already starting, please also provide your child with a hat/gloves/scarf, this will be very beneficial for every child, especially for those children who are spending the afternoon outside in Forest School 😊

Can we also please remind everyone to name their child's belongings

(coat/shoes/lunch boxes etc...) Thank you

FOREST SCHOOL

At times you may wonder why your child has come home with clothes that do not belong to them after Forest School..... when they go to Forest School we are unable to take all their bags with us into the woods, as they are kept in the cabin. We have a box of spare clothes that we take to Forest School and we will select clothes from there to change your child if they have an accident during the Forest School session. Furthermore, we would be really grateful if you could please wash and return the borrowed clothes as soon as you possibly can to Pre-School.

Thank You!

Reception Admissions September 2022

For our older children born between 01 Sept 2017 and 31 August 2018 it is time for parents to think about their next school and to organise applying for Admissions. All councils are strongly encouraging parents to apply on-line and this is the preferred method of admission.

PLEASE NOTE: If you live outside of Buckinghamshire County Council postcode (i.e. Milton Keynes or Bedfordshire) and want to apply for a Bucks school you need to apply for your child's admission to school through your own local authority (i.e. the council you pay your council tax to). For school places in Milton Keynes, please apply online at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schooladmissions and for school places in Bedfordshire, please apply online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions . If you live in the Bucks/Aylesbury Vale area please apply online at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions you can apply online **between 3rd November 2021 and 15th January 2022.** Applications for Primary School. All applications **MUST** be submitted by no later than **midnight on 15th January 2022.**

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is very important to everyone at Little Ashes Pre-School. We review our policies annually and keep up to date with new legislation and requirements. Policies are always available via email if you require them.

OUR SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS FOR LITTLE ASHES ARE:

Charlene Vanderpuye (Leader) on 07855215154 or leader@littleashespreschool.co.uk

Natalie Williams and Helen Inwood (Deputy) on 07855215154
Jodi Colbron (Committee Safeguarding Officer) on (for emergencies and safeguarding concerns only) or safeguarding@littleashespreschool.co.uk

FEES & INVOICING

From January 2022 each session will be billed at £18 per session. Invoices will be sent out termly with the option to initially pay half and then half later. If you have any questions or queries regarding your invoices or uniform orders please contact our Financial Administrator Hannah on admin@littleashespreschool.co.uk

Our Christmas Nativity

All the staff have been busy planning a Christmas Nativity performance! Our Nativity performance will be on ***Thursday 16th December @ 11am**. We have chosen this day to give all our 'School Leavers' the opportunity to participate in their final Christmas production (all school leavers will be invited). If your child does not attend Pre-School on Thursdays and is not a 'School Leaver', they will have the opportunity to participate in the Nativity next year and the year after. We will send out the song list and information regarding parts week commencing **Monday 29th November 2021**. We have a range of Nativity costumes at Pre-School, so once your child's part has been confirmed and you are unable to provide your own costume, please speak to Charlene and we can provide you with a costume for the show.

We will continue to monitor the Government Guidelines and keep you updated with any changes.

Christmas Party

The last day of this term is **Friday 17th December**. We would like to celebrate the last day of term and Christmas by having a party! All children who usually attend on a Friday will arrive at 9am, play party games, participate in dancing competitions and enjoy a party food snack. All 'School Leavers' will also be invited to the Christmas party as this will be their last one before they start school next September. We will be giving each child a Christmas present. If your child does not attend on Fridays, they will be given their Christmas present on their last day during that week.

***Please note there will be NO Lunch Club and Forest School on Friday 17th December 2021.**

COVID-19 UPDATE

Unfortunately COVID-19 cases are rising in surrounding areas, we would like to ask you to familiarise yourselves with any new current guidelines on <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> This will help us to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the setting. Most importantly, please adhere to the following:

- **Arrange for a PCR test** for any member of your household who have symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, temperature or change to taste or smell)
- **Arrange for a PCR test for all members of your household** if any member tests positive for COVID-19
- Please do not send your children into Pre-School if they have any symptoms unless they receive a **negative** Lateral Flow Test or PCR result and please keep us informed of results.

Your support with the above requirements will hopefully help us to keep cases to a minimum 😊

If you have any questions, worries, concerns and/or ideas you would like to share with us please feel free to contact us via email or catch a member of staff during drop off/pick-up. Don't forget to check out our website: www.littleashespreschool.co.uk

Charlene, Helen, Nat, Diana, Lorna, Penny, Becca & Julia

