



AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER 2022

Nativity Thursday 15 December 11.30am

Autumn Term ends Friday 16 December

Spring Term Begins Monday 9 January

Half Term Monday 13 to Friday 17 February

If your child is unwell or unable to come to pre-school for any other reason please let the setting know by 10am of the morning concerned by **text** to the setting phone on **07534 673297**. After that time if we have not heard from you we will contact you to ensure all is well. Please note this phone is not monitored outside of session hours. Absences known in advance may be emailed or texted though the latter is preferred.

This term has flown by and it hardly seems possible that it's December already! We're looking forward to decorating the tree, creating some Christmas decorations using hand prints and doing some seasonal cooking too. The children really love this latter activity and recently enjoyed spreading toast and trying out different toppings.



Nativity

Our Nativity this year is on Thursday, December 15th beginning at 11.30am with coffee served in the Hub. Please use the Northey Avenue entrance on arrival.



Parents and grandparents are warmly invited.

If your child doesn't usually attend Little Fishes on a Thursday please bring him/her in already dressed in costume no earlier than 11.30am. Again please enter the building via the main entrance and then bring them down to our usual hall.

Parents are welcome to take photos but please do not upload them to the Internet. Thank you. We'd be grateful if the Thursday children's costumes could be brought to the setting by Friday 9th December in a named carrier bag.

What's On At St Paul's Church?



Coffee morning

Please do come to the Little Fishes Parents Christmas coffee morning in the Hub on Wednesday 7th December from 9am after drop off. Keren and Debbie look forward to welcoming you.

Christmas pantomime

Christmas the big mix 17th December 2pm. £5 per child, adults free. It's aimed at 5-7's but younger and older are most certainly welcome.

The performance lasts an hour with no intervals.
Book via:-
<https://www.saintpauls.co.uk/Groups/353415/Christmas.aspx>

Crib service

Christmas Eve at 4pm.

Children come dressed as their favourite nativity character.

Grateful Thanks



We're so grateful to Chris and Bob, two volunteers at St Paul's, for the improvements they've made to the setting, especially for the half door into our small room and the bag/boot rack in the lobby. This latter introduction came about following a comment made by a parent on the returners' questionnaire noting that there wasn't much room on pegs for all the children's belongings. Please could we ask you to ensure bags have your child's name on the outside if you leave them there, however, so staff can readily locate them.

Super Sounds

This term we've introduced 'Super Sounds' a pre-phonics programme planned into a clear pre-phonics progression, which will lay the foundations for any phonics programme which follows. To prepare pre-school children for phonics we need to teach them to listen to and make sounds, remember the sounds they hear and talk about the similarities and differences in sounds. This programme will help them to do just that.

Each fortnight we introduce a story book and play associated games that help the children develop these skills. The first we read was 'Peace at Last' by Jill Murphy and we had great fun making the sounds of owls, dripping taps and the buzz of a refrigerator!

Fathers' Week

We'd like to re-introduce our Fathers' Week during the week of February 20th - 24th. This is an opportunity for dads to come into the setting for part of a morning to join in with their children at 'work'. In the past several dads have commented on what an enjoyable and eye opening time it has been. Further details will follow. We'll also introduce a mothers' week later in the year.



Food for Snack Time

Thank you to all parents who've brought in contributions of fruit or savoury snack each week. The children greatly appreciate the variety and it helps us keep costs down as do also the termly gifts of baby wipes and tissues.



Please bear in mind when buying savoury snacks that we are a nut free zone so do check the ingredients on the packets before purchasing them. Could we also ask please that you bring savoury snacks in their original packaging rather than smaller quantities from your cupboard as we need to be able to check the ingredients.

Unwell Children

If your child is unwell, they must not come into Pre-school and it would be helpful if you would let us know. If they have suffered from sickness/diarrhoea we ask that you do not bring them back until they have been free from symptoms for 48 hours. Please inform the setting manager if your child has any contagious diseases such as impetigo, chicken pox, conjunctivitis, head lice or worms. Please keep your child at home if they have a streaming cold and are feeling under the weather.

If your child has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

What is 30 hours Funded Childcare?

Most working parents of three and four year olds are eligible for an extra 15 hours of funded childcare a week, term time. Added to your current universal entitlement of 15 hours Funded Early Education for three and four year olds, this means that your entitlement will increase to a total of 30 hours a week, term time (or 1140 hours over a year). We are registered for 30 hours funded childcare term time and offer up to 24.75 hours. If you wish to claim all 30 hours some parents arrange for a childminder to cover the extra time.

If you think you might be eligible apply through the government's Childcare Choices website. There's 30 Hours Eligibility Guidance to help you understand whether you will qualify. If your application is successful, you'll get given an 11 digit eligibility code which you must then give us so that we can check your eligibility. A child can only take up their extended hours from the term following the date of issue of their 30 hour code. Eligibility code applications for the Spring Term 2023 may be made up until December 31st.

The Benefits of Cooking with your Child

If you've not tried cooking with your child why not give it a go over the Christmas break.? As the website Tiny Happy People reminds us

- Chatting while cooking together will let your child hear new words that they might not use every day.
- Talking about what you're going to cook and how you're going to do it gives them an opportunity to talk in the future tense.
- Counting out the ingredients lets your child practise numbers and comparison words, like more or less.
- Discussing the different steps of a recipe helps your child follow instructions and teaches them about sequences and order in sentences.
- Cooking together is a great way to bond with your child, have fun and chat with them.



For some top tips for cooking with your child and boosting their language go to the [Tiny Happy People](#) website.

Children's Flu Vaccine

If your child hasn't as yet had a flu vaccine please do consider getting them one. This nasal spray flu vaccine is safe and effective and is offered every year to children to help protect them against flu.

Flu is caused by the influenza virus. It can be a very unpleasant illness for children. It can also lead to serious problems, such as bronchitis and pneumonia. Children can catch and spread flu easily. Vaccinating them also protects others who are vulnerable to flu, such as babies and older people.

The nasal spray flu vaccine is free on the NHS for:

- children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2022 (born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2020)
- all primary school children (Reception to Year 6)



The staff at Little Fishes would like to join in wishing you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you back on Monday 9th January 2023!