

September 2012



Greenshoots News

Welcome to Greenshoots News

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to give you an update on what is currently happening at the Pre-school. This is going to be a busy term for us all!

New Starters at the Pre-school

We have had sixteen new children join the Pre-school this term. We would like to welcome - Alex, Casper-Jay, Charlie, Finn, Harry, Jamie, Jetmir, Kadie, Khianna, Korey, Mason, Megan, Naomi, Tegan, Tushar and Wanda hope that they really enjoy their time with us here at Greenshoots.

Goodbye to Old Faces and Hello to New Ones

Daniel Southwould has now left the Greenshoots team after being offered a full-time position at another nursery and moving out of the area during the holidays. We shall all miss him but wish him all the best for the future. The children in Dan's key group have all been allocated a new key person and you will have been informed who this is. If you have any queries please ask any member of the team.

Gill Clarke who helps run our After School Club and is a Meal Time Assistant at the school will be helping at the Pre-school on a Friday morning for the time being.

Key Person Groups and Access to Learning Journeys

As we have lots of new friends at Pre-school we have been reviewing our Key Person Groups. Every child has a Key Person at Pre-school and you should have all been introduced to this person. We are going to be updating our display in the Reception area detailing which staff member's group your child is in - Natalie's, Alison's or Hayley's. Each Key Person is responsible for observing the children in their groups interests and development. They also create each child's Learning Journey record and these will also be made accessible to their parents in a new storage area in the main room shortly.

What We Are Currently Learning About and Home Learning

We are currently focusing on the theme of 'All About Me'. We have been getting to know all our new friends and what they like doing in the first week of term. Plus we have been looking at how the interests of our existing children have developed. If you have any ideas or resources that you would like to share please let one of the staff members know.

We will be sending home a Home Learning sheet letting you know what we are learning about at Pre-school as ideas of how you can support your children's learning at home.

Reformed Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Curriculum we follow here at Greenshoots has been reformed and there is now an emphasis on the characteristics of effective learning and that the prime and specific areas of learning and developed are all interconnected. There are now 7 areas of learning. The 3 prime areas of learning are Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Communication and Language. These areas are focused on igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn from relationships and thrive. The 4 specific areas of learning are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Through these areas of learning the 3 prime areas are strengthened and applied.

Session Times

We are currently tightening up on our session times and collection of children from Greenshoots. Whilst we want to be flexible we also want to ensure that the children are receiving quality provision and full entitlement to their three hour sessions with us. If you arrive early please wait patiently as we do not want to disrupt our sessions and interrupt the children's learning time.

The Pre-school opens at 8.45 a.m. and we ask you to bring your child in between 8.45 a.m. - 9.00 a.m. in order for there to be a calm start to their day. If your child just attends the morning session then their session finishes at 11.45 a.m. The children's Adult Led Group Time finishes at 11.40 a.m. and then one member of staff will take the children who are going home into the cloakroom area to get ready for collection at 11.45 a.m. Please note that we will not answer the intercom buzzer before 11.40 a.m. as we are busy supporting the children's learning.

If your child comes for the afternoon session then the session begins at 12.15 p.m. We will not answer the intercom system before 12.15 p.m. as we are busy supporting the children who are having lunch and some of the staff will be having their lunch too!

If your child stays all day or just attends for the afternoon session then the session finishes at 3.15 p.m. With many of the children having siblings at Laira Primary and wanting to give some flexibility we will allow collection of Greenshoots children from 3.00 p.m. onwards but not before this. Again this is because as the children will be engaged in their Adult Led Group Time until 3.00 p.m. With the school finishing at 3.00 p.m. we politely ask that you collect your older child/ren first and then come to collect from Greenshoots.

If you need to collect your child early from their usual session on a one off occasion; then this will not be a problem as long as you let a member of staff know when you bring your child in. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Parent Contracts and Pre-school Invoices

Thank you to those of you who have returned your new Parent Contract. This is a legally binding document which we are now using to inform you of what you can expect from us and in return what we expect from you in one document. You will all receive a copy of your contract along with a copy of our new fees policy.

Our new Pre-school invoices will be going out this week. These will detail charges for a half term for any additional Pre-school sessions accessed after your free entitlement of 15 Hours / 5 Sessions per week or lunch sessions your child is booked in for as detailed on your Parent Contract. Whilst a total cost for the half term will be given on your invoice you can still pay in installments should you wish. Additional three hour Pre-school sessions accessed are now charged at £10.50 a session. Lunch sessions are now £3.00 a day, which is £1.70 for the meal and £1.30 for the care element.

If you have any questions about our new systems then please speak to Kerry.

Security Reminder

When you press the intercom system to enter the School grounds to come to the Pre-school we answer and open the gate for you. However we are not in control of closing the gate behind you as this is controlled electronically. Therefore we ask that you remain by the gate until it closes fully to ensure the safety of the children at our School and Pre-school thank you.

Spare Clothes and Wellington Boots

Please can you ensure that your child brings a bag of spare clothes to each session they attend. This is so they have a change of dry clean clothes to put on if they get wet or particularly dirty during an activity or if they have a toilet accident. We have a limited supply of spare clothes available and sometimes borrowed items are not returned meaning that our supplies are even lower. If your child is sent home in clothes borrowed from us please ensure you return them and if you have any spare items that your children have grown out of that would be suitable for some of our other children we would be very grateful of a donation. Thank you.

With the Autumn season upon us we recommend that your children bring Wellington Boots to Pre-school so that they can enjoy the outside environment whatever the weather conditions!

Term Dates Please note that these have changed.

Autumn Term - Tuesday 4th September - Friday 21st December 2012.

Half Term - Monday 29th October - Friday 2nd November 2012.

Dates Closed - Monday 3rd September for INSET Day.

Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd October for INSET Day.

Monday 5th November for INSET Day.

School Holiday - Monday 24th December 2012 - Friday 4th January 2013.

Spring Term - Monday 7th January - Thursday 28th March 2013.

Half Term - Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February 2013.

School Holiday - Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April 2013.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kerry and the Greenshoots Team