



# Little Lambs Pre-School Centre Parents Termly Newsletter - Autumn 2018

## Welcome!

A special welcome as we start our Autumn Term and we hope you all had an enjoyable summer. We offer a special welcome to all our new children and parents and pray your time with us will be very enjoyable. We welcome back our existing Little Lambs and hope they missed us during the holidays and are eager to return.

The first few weeks are very much a settling in process and if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to talk to us.

We are pleased that this term sees us able to offer the 30 hours entitlement for working parents to our older children. Please don't forget their packed lunches! Remember, we are a nut free environment.

We welcome Fiona Heath as Nursery Assistant and Emma Keeling as HR/Office Admin to our team. They did start with us in the middle of last term but it's nice to welcome them officially in our termly newsletter. We hope your roles as part of Team Lambs will be rewarding and we are delighted to welcome you both on board.

Sadly due to family commitments, Auntie Di is stepping down as Key Person, but remains on the team for supply cover.

We wish Jackie Busby a healthy and happy semi-retirement - still doing Home Visits with myself as required.

We pray for all the children in our care, for those starting school and for those we know have current health issues. God bless you all.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your children.

*Sandra and the team*

Little Lambs  
Pre-School Centre

Issue 35

Autumn Term 2018

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### Please Note:

Dates for Nurse, Fire-fighters and Police visits to Little Lambs morning children to be confirmed - please keep an eye on weekly notices.



## Important Dates for your Diary

Friday 5th October	Harvest Celebrations - morning children. 10.00am coffee - 10.30am service with children
Monday 8th October	Autumn Nature Walk at Lickey Hills (all morning and afternoon children and parent/carers.) A separate letter will follow soon. <i>If you do not do a Monday session and wish to do this, you can either book an extra session or swap. This is a paid session</i>
Thursday 25th October	4.00-5.30pm - discussion with afternoon parents - children's two year progress check. (you will be advised if this applies to you nearer the time.)
Friday 26th October	<b>NURSERY CLOSED - INSET DAY</b>
<b>Monday 29th October - Friday 2nd November HALF TERM</b>	
Monday 5th November	<b>NURSERY CLOSED - INSET DAY</b>
Friday 16th November	Children in Need special
Saturday 17th November	Christmas Fayre - 12.00 noon
Monday 19th November	Road Safety to visit Little Lambs - morning children only
Thursday 22nd November	Parents Evening - 5.00—7.30pm (am & pm children, excl 2 yr checks)
Friday 7th December	<b>NURSERY CLOSED</b> - January Intake to Visit
Friday 14th December	Nativity for all morning children - parents/carers & families welcome
Tuesday 18th December	Celebration of Christmas for all afternoon children and parents and visit from Santa - <b>End of Term session for pm children</b>
Wednesday 19th December	Breakfast with Santa - morning children - normal session times - children only - <b>End of Term session for am children</b>
Thu & Fri 20th & 21st Dec	Staff only

**Spring Term** starts Mon 7th Jan for staff and Tue 8th Jan for am & pm children

# Notes and News

## Outdoor Curriculum



As the outdoors is simply an extension of our curriculum here at Little Lambs, we would ask you to bring suitable clothing each day to allow your child to benefit from all-weather experiences as the opportunities arise. Outdoors is full of interesting and fascinating experiences where deep-level learning can take place on a daily basis.

## Healthy Snacks at Café

We would like to remind parents of **grant-funded children ONLY** that a contribution of £2 a week is payable for a lovely variety of daily healthy snacks and fruit.

We would be grateful if the amounts payable (£14 for 7th Sept - 25th Oct and £14 for 6 Nov - 19th Dec, including Christmas Party) could be paid during the first two weeks of each half-term.

Please note, unlike schools, we do not receive a free fruit allowance from the government.



## Arrival & Collection Times

Morning sessions arrival between 8.30-8.40am and collection at 11.30am. Please try not to collect children any later as we have to set up for afternoon sessions. Thank you.

Afternoon arrival & collection times are 12.30 & 3.00pm respectively. For those morning children accessing 30 hours, collection is 3.30pm unless another time has been agreed.

## Parking

A reminder to parents about parking at our busiest times of day on arrival and departure.

**PLEASE DO NOT double park or park on pavements. This is not only dangerous, but could result in the Police being called and cars being ticketed.**

***In addition, please do not block the entrances to the Church car park or nursery drive.***

***Sadly we no longer have the facility to park on the factory car park at the top of Hill Street. If this changes in future we will let you know.***

## Important Reminders:

### Smoking & Vaping

Bethel grounds and premises are no smoking areas. This includes both traditional and e-cigarettes. The boundary includes the area in front of the Little Lambs gates to a line between the front railings and the church wall. If you must smoke whilst waiting for your children, please do so on the public footpath and leave this recess smoke-free for parents, children & babies waiting at the gates. Thank you



### Mobile Phones



Mobile phones must not be used once inside the nursery building.

### Clothes

Could all parents make sure that they bring a spare change of clothes daily (needed for water play or toileting purposes)



Also could we ask parents to return any spare Little Lambs clothes they may have at home

### Toys



Please discourage children from bringing these from home. We have lots of toys already, and loss and breakage is always a possibility.

## Sickness, Holidays & other absences

PLEASE make sure that you let us know as early as possible that day if your child will not be attending Pre-School for any reason.



**This is an important requirement for all parents and carers.**

If you have booked a holiday or a day out, please also let us know in advance by completing a Holiday Form - now also available to print online.

## Birthdays

Children's birthdays are celebrated within the sessions at Little Lambs. We would encourage parents not to bring in sweets and cakes as we feel this puts people under unnecessary pressure to buy for all children at an already expensive time. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

## Useful Resources

A useful document "What to expect, when?", published by 4Children supported by Department for Education, is guidance for parents about children's learning & development in EYFS and is available to download [https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children\\_Parents\\_Guide\\_2015\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_Parents_Guide_2015_WEB.pdf)

We thought you might also find the following website useful and interesting when looking for activities to do with your children at home:

The Imagination Tree - <http://theimaginationtree.com>

And these websites have interesting information for the health of your children:

- St John's Ambulance baby CPR - <http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/first-aid-advice/first-aid-for-parents.aspx>
- British Heart Foundation be active resources - [www.bhfactive.org.uk/earlyyearsguidelines/index.html](http://www.bhfactive.org.uk/earlyyearsguidelines/index.html)

## Fees



For any parents not receiving grant who are paying fees, could you please ensure that any money due is paid **on your child's first session of the week**. Fees are payable weekly or monthly in advance if you prefer. Special envelopes for snack money, fees, music time, etc., are available to make

collection of monies easier for all concerned. Please take them as required. They are in the box in the entrance. Cheques (only over £30 please, due to high bank processing fees) should be made payable to 'Bethel Chapel'.

## Music Time

We plan to continue this service (provided by a specialist music teacher) this term each Wednesday morning for all children who wish to participate in this session. The charge remains at £2 per session, payable in a one-off payment for the 7 weeks for this half term of £14. This can be paid anytime before the end of September.



## Collection of Children

- Please note that if it is not yourself collecting your child, arrangements have to be made with Pre-School staff as to who will be collecting, and preferably, a password given. Please try not to be late in collecting your child, as this can be upsetting for the child, and also these are busy times to set up for the afternoon and to clear up at the end of a day. Obviously, in the event of an emergency, children are always cared for by staff until collection is possible, but please contact Nursery to let us know that there will be a delay, if at all possible.
- An important reminder that children's safety on the nursery drive and the entrance foyer remains the responsibility of parents/carers both on arrival and departure.
- Can we also remind parents and carers not to leave children unattended in vehicles for short periods whilst dropping off/picking up, even close to the gates of nursery.

## Little Lambs Lending Library

Little Lambs morning children will continue to choose their Library books to share at home during

**Monday morning sessions.**

These are to be returned the same day the following week please

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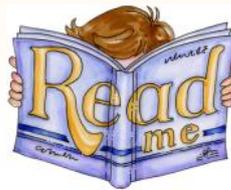
On Fridays at 11.30am there will be an opportunity for children, with their parents/carers, to choose and borrow one of our **Storiesacks or CD-Roms**.

We only have 10 story sacks and 30 CD-Roms so they will be issued on a 'first come first served' basis.

It would be much appreciated if they could be returned on the following Monday morning in order to be checked back and used in Lambs sessions if required.

These CD-ROMs cost between £40 - £50 each and we ask that parents take great care with these items on loan.

Any damages which occur whilst in your possession will need to be paid for by yourselves.



**Thank you for your co-operation.**

## Name Recognition

Please can you encourage your child to find their own coat peg each session, either by picture recognition or by name, and to hang up their own coat, instead of doing these things for them. Then please encourage them to select their name card and self register in their Key Group area.

## Trips & Specials this term

<p><b>Harvest Special</b> Friday 5th October Morning children and parents</p>	<p><b>Autumn Nature Walk</b> Lickey Hills Monday 8th October AM &amp; PM children &amp; parents</p>	<p><b>Afternoon Parents two year progress check discussions</b> Thursday 25th October (4.00-5.30pm)</p>
<p><b>Nurse, Fire-fighters, Road Safety &amp; Police</b> to visit Little Lambs this term (am children only)</p>	<p><b>Parents Evening</b> Thursday 22nd November (5.00-7.30pm)</p>	<p><b>Christmas Fayre</b> Saturday 17th November 12 noon</p>
<p><b>Little Lambs Nativity</b> (am children and their parents) Friday 14th December</p>	<p><b>Celebrating Christmas</b> (pm children and their parents) Tuesday 18th December End of Term — pm last session</p>	<p><b>Breakfast with Santa</b> (am children) Wednesday 19th December End of Term — am last session</p>

# Little Lambs Pre-School Centre

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**On-Line...** Our weekly notices, Prospectus, full Policy Document and this newsletter are all available online - [www.bethelchapel.net](http://www.bethelchapel.net)

Please check at weekends for important notices for the following week, especially if you are not able to come into Pre-School on a daily basis due to work commitments etc.

## Information sharing

If your child has done anything exciting during the week-end or holidays or has achieved a particular milestone, we would like to know so that we can talk about such an event with them. We have "WOW Moments - Parent Voice" slips for you to complete available in Nursery entrance or online. If you wish to include photos with some of these we would love to see them and they will be added to your child's Learning Journey to give a complete overview of your child's learning experiences at Pre-School and at home, on outings and holidays.

If you would like to submit an application form for another child, please print out the last page of the Prospectus, complete and return it to Nursery

## School Admissions - September 2019

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2019, you must complete an application either online at [www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions) or by completing a copy of the application form by 15th January 2019. Please contact Dudley Schools Admissions Service if you require any help - 01384 814223 or [www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions)

## Emergency Evacuation Policy

A reminder that should we ever need to evacuate nursery for any reason, our policy will be to take all the children to Wollescote Primary School in Drummond Road to keep them safe and then to contact parents/carers to pick them up from there.

## Letters and Important Notices

Please can any parent/carer who wishes to receive a second copy of any correspondence for a parent/carer living outside the family home please see Mal or San.

If you wish such correspondence to be posted out, please have the address and post code available.



## Dogs



Whilst we love dogs, some children don't, so could you please refrain from bringing them on site. Thank you



## Informal Parents Evening -

Thursday 22nd November 5.00—7.30pm

This is an informal evening where you can discuss the progress of your child and we encourage you as parents to come along and find out a little more about our Pre-School life and day to day activities here at Little Lambs. If you wish to discuss your child's progress with their Key Person, to avoid unnecessary delays, it would be easier if you booked a **10 minute appointment slot**. We would welcome and value any ideas, views and suggestions you may have and are happy to answer any questions arising, as we work together for the benefit of our children.

## Afternoon Children's Progress Check

As part of the EYFS curriculum, it is a requirement that all children aged between 24—36 months have a progress check. To comply with this we have arranged for each of our Key Persons to be available on Thursday 25th October between 4.00 - 5.30pm to discuss each of their children's progress with parents. Individual appointments can be made with your child's Key Person nearer the time.

## Uniform

*A lot of new uniform has been purchased, so please be sure that it is clearly labelled either in indelible ink or with an iron or sew on tag.*

Could you also please write your child's name in their coats and shoes, as many children have the same style, size and width-fitting shoes at this age and confusion can easily arise, especially during role-play situations.



## Change of Address & Contact Numbers

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you let us know immediately of any change of address, telephone or mobile contact details. Forms are available in nursery entrance for you to complete.

## And Finally .....

Autumn is fast approaching and as at Wednesday 5th Sept it is just 110 sleeps 'til Santa!!



Looking forward to enjoying the Autumn Term here at Little Lambs  
*Working together for the best for our children.*

**AA** This newsletter is available in larger print on request