



# Little Lambs Pre-School Centre Parents Termly Newsletter - Autumn 2023

## Welcome!

A special welcome as we start our Autumn Term and we hope you all had an enjoyable summer.

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. Please rest assured that we are here to support you and your children through the next few weeks of changes!



We continue 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 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.

*Jen and the team*

## Staff News

At the end of last term we said a very sad goodbye to Uncle Matt who has moved on to pastures new, and Auntie Chloe who is beginning the next stage of her journey to become a qualified teacher.

We wish them both all the very best in their new horizons.

The Little Lambs Team would also like to welcome Auntie Tammy to the role of Key Person.

Little Lambs  
Pre-School Centre

Issue 49

Autumn Term 2023

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## Important Dates for your Diary

Friday 29th September	Harvest Special for Morning Children We will ask for any tinned goods to be donated for local families in need.
Monday 2nd October	Trip to our local allotment for Morning children to experience Harvest (parents to accompany and details to follow)
Monday 9th October	Morning Children - Autumn Nature Walk at Wollescote Park Afternoon Children - Autumn Nature Walk at Wollescote Park <b>Sorry, nursery will not be open for those not attending the trip on this day and there will be no 30hrs pm session</b>
Thursday 26th October 3.30pm onwards	Parents evening for all afternoon children - appointments with your child's key person to be made nearer the time
Friday 27th October	<b>NURSERY CLOSED</b> - INSET DAY
<b>Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November - HALF TERM</b>	
Monday 6th November	<b>NURSERY CLOSED</b> - INSET DAY
Thursday 16th November 3.30pm onwards	Parents evening for all morning children - appointments with your child's key person to be made nearer the time
Friday 17th November	<b>NURSERY CLOSED</b> - January Intake visit
Saturday 25th November	Christmas Fayre
Friday 15th December	Nativity for all morning children
Wednesday 20th December	Breakfast with Santa - morning children - normal session times - children only - <b>End of Term session for am children</b>
Wednesday 20th December	Celebration of Christmas for all afternoon children and parents and visit from Santa - <b>End of Term session for pm children - There will be no 30 hours pm session</b>
Thu & Fri 21st & 22nd Dec	Staff only

**Spring Term starts**  
Monday 8th Jan for staff  
Wednesday 10th Jan for  
all children

## Outdoor Curriculum



At Little Lambs we see the outdoors as an important part of our learning environment. Current Government Guidelines advise that children spend as much time as possible learning outdoors. **With this in mind, it is essential that all children wear suitable clothing/shoes each day and bring a warm, waterproof coat.** Outdoors is full of interesting and fascinating experiences where deep-level learning can take place on a daily basis.

## Arrival & Collection Times

We ask all parents to abide by the following staggered arrival and collection times:

### Morning Children

**Rainbow and Butterfly Room Children**  
Drop off and collect from main nursery entrance 8.25 - 8.35am  
11.25 - 11.35am

**Sunshine Room Children**  
Drop off and collect from Sunshine Room door on outdoor area 8.25 - 8.35am  
11.25 - 11.35am

### Afternoon Children

**Rainbow Room Children**  
Drop off and collect at main nursery entrance 12.30 - 12.40pm  
2.50 - 3.00pm

**Children Accessing 30 hour sessions**  
Collection from main nursery entrance 2.50 - 3.00pm

## 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.*

## 30hrs Afternoon Sessions

Please note, there will be no afternoon sessions for the 30 hours children on the following dates:

- Monday 9th October
- Wednesday 20th December

## Toys

Please encourage your child to leave toys at home. We have lots of toys in nursery and their own toys may get lost or broken if they bring them into nursery.

## 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 grounds.

### 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 which they have borrowed.

## 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 [www.bethelchapel.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/4Children\\_ParentsGuide\\_2015\\_WE\\_B.pdf](http://www.bethelchapel.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WE_B.pdf)

Also available by following the below link is The Early Years Foundation Stage 2021—a guide for parents and carers, published by ParentZone, which will give you further information

<https://connectchildcare.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/The-Early-Years-Foundation-Stage-EYFS-2021-A-guide-for-parents-and-carers-2.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 -

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gc1kR8ZQxQ4&t=5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gc1kR8ZQxQ4&t=5s)

- ICON - information to support parents with crying babies and prevent abusive head trauma - <https://iconcope.org/>

I'm sure you all wish to keep your children safe whilst they are using the internet. Below is a link to the NSPCC online safety tool to support you and safeguard your children

- NSPCC Online Safety -

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety>

## 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.

Online bank transfers are preferred where possible for payment of fees, snack money and uniform. Our bank details are as follows:

Account Name: Bethel Chapel  
Account No: 00757698  
Sort Code: 30-93-75



Where this is not possible, please use the blue envelopes available from staff for payment of cash.

## Music Time

We plan to continue this enhancement to our provision provided by a specialist music teacher at a charge of £2 per session.

We will let you know via the weekly notices how many sessions will be accessed this half term.



## 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,

## 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. Please add your photos and anecdotes to their Tapestry account 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, you can do so via our website -

<https://www.bethelchapel.net/little-lambs-application/>

## Healthy Snacks at Café

We would like to remind parents of **early education funded children ONLY** that a contribution of £2.50 a week is payable for a lovely variety of daily healthy snacks and fruit.

We will invoice at the beginning of each half term to inform you of the fees due, prompt payment would be very much appreciated.

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



## 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 online -

<https://www.bethelchapel.net/little-lambs-attendance/>

## Trips & Specials this term



<p><b>Harvest Special</b> Friday 29th September Morning children Please send tinned food donations</p>	<p><b>Allotment Trips</b> W/C 2nd October Morning children</p>	<p><b>Autumn Nature Walk</b> Wollescote Park Monday 9th October</p>
<p><b>PM Parents Discussions</b> Including 2 year check meetings Thursday 26th October Appointments from 3.30pm onwards to be booked closer to date</p>	<p><b>AM Parents Discussions</b> Thursday 16th November Appointments from 3.30pm onwards to be booked closer to date</p>	<p><b>Christmas Fayre</b> Saturday 25th November 12noon</p>
<p><b>Little Lambs Nativity</b> Friday 15th December Morning children</p>	<p><b>Breakfast with Santa</b> Morning children Wednesday 20th December End of Term — last am session</p>	<p><b>Celebrating Christmas</b> Afternoon children Wednesday 20th December End of Term — last pm session</p>



# Little Lambs Pre-School Centre

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## On-Line & Reviews

Our weekly notices, Prospectus, full Policy Document, this newsletter and lots of other useful documents are all available online - <https://www.bethelchapel.net/little-lambs/>

Please check your emails on Fridays 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.

Can parents help us to boost our online presence by reviewing Little Lambs on Google please? You can access this by searching for Little Lambs Pre-School on Google then clicking on 'Write a Review'. Thanks for your help.

We would appreciate any parents who have Facebook to follow us as we share updates on nursery and please leave a recommendation if you are able - <https://www.facebook.com/Lambs1991>

## Change of Address / Contact Details

We will be sending out weekly notices and any necessary correspondence to your email address. Please make sure we have your correct email address and that you check your emails regularly to ensure you don't miss anything!!

## School Admissions - September 2024

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2024, 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 (available from 1st October) by 15th January 2024. 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 Emma, Clare or Jen.

If you wish such correspondence to be emailed out, please ensure that we have the correct email address.



## Dogs



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



## Informal Parents Evening AM Children

Thursday 16th November, 3.30pm onwards

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.

## Informal Parents Evening PM Children + 2 year Progress Check

Thursday 26th October, 3.30pm onwards

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 will arrange a 20 minute appointment during the Informal Parent Evening to discuss your child's progress. For older afternoon children who have already turned 3 by this date, 10 minute appointment slots will be available to discuss your child's progress with their key person. 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.



## 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.

## And Finally .....

Autumn is fast approaching and as at Thursday 7th Sept it is just 109 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