



**Welcome** everyone to the first newsletter of this Academic year. It has been an incredibly busy September with our Rising 5 children having to learn some new routines, become a little more independent and work in a key group with one special big person supporting them. They have all done a fantastic job and are settling well. Last week we welcomed our new Rising 3's, it is early days yet and such a new concept for many of them but with support already this week we have seen a significant change and they are beginning to embrace life at Little Meadow.



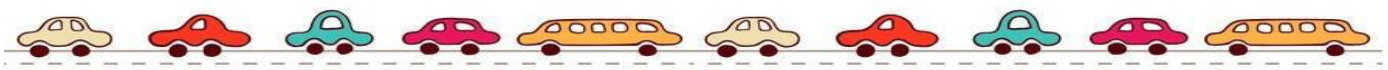
**British Weather.** The weather is proving very unpredictable at the moment, dry or even sunny when we arrive and cold and wet when we leave. A large number of children are coming into setting without a coat and sometimes even without a jumper. We have a fabulous outside area and would like to be able to use it as much as possible. Can we please ask you to send your child in with a waterproof coat each day.



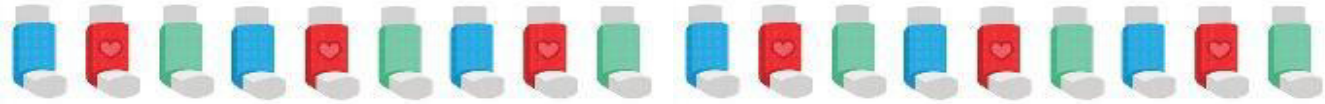
**Wellington Boots** If you send your child into session with Wellingtons on, please provide a change of footwear. We have under floor heating which is very effective but can make wearing wellingtons indoors for any period of time a little uncomfortable. If you wish to send a little pair of slippers in to keep here, that would be great and they can live in your child's drawer.



**Naming** Can we please remind everyone to name items of clothing as with more things coming in hats, gloves, coats, cardigans, wellingtons it is likely that we will have duplicate items and prefer to ensure the right possessions go home with the right child.



**Parking** As the weather changes so more cars descend on Elmore Lane East. We do appreciate that for some parents it is necessary to drive to the setting and would ask everyone to park respectful of our neighbours. If parking in Griffon Close please ensure you are not blocking anyone's driveway or putting drivers at risk of a collision by greatly reducing their visibility. Similarly if like staff you park in Elmore Lane itself, please avoid either side of Griffon Close as when there are cars coming in and out restricted visibility could play a part in a collision. There is also a drop in the kerb here allowing pedestrians to cross safely so ensure this is not blocked.



**Inhaler** If your child currently has or over the Autumn are prescribed an inhaler, could you please request a spare inhaler and spacer if prescribed to be held in the setting. If this is not possible could you please place these in a separate named bag and hand to a member of the Early Years team. Should the need for an Inhaler be identified can you also ensure that you alert the office so we can ensure the required permission forms are completed.



**Sickness** – Please remember that should your child have sickness or diarrhoea that they need to stay at home for 48 hours from the last episode. We do ask that you also ring the setting on day one. If you are giving your child Calpol or something similar prior to sending them to Little Meadow please consider whether this warm and noisy environment is the right place for your poorly child to be. This medication is not effective for the session length and towards the end of the session your child could begin to feel unwell again resulting in a call from us to collect them. When dropping off please advise staff if your child has been given any medication that morning so we can support them if appropriate.

**Family photo sittings.** – On the morning of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November we have arranged for our photographer to come to the setting and hold some photo sittings for members of the Little Meadow family, these are reasonably priced and make lovely Christmas presents or memory makers. When you request an appointment the room is yours, you can bring props pets and as many or few people as you would like included. Watch out for a letter with more details.



**Individual photos.** The Photographer will be in session on the morning of Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November to take individual portraits of your children which will be back before the end of term. If your child is not in session on a Monday or attends Rising 3's, you will also have an opportunity to be included but will need to bring your child at 9.15 and stay with them until the photo's have been taken so you can go home together. Again, letters to follow.



**Outdoor Play Equipment** The children in session have very clear rules when using all the outdoor equipment to ensure their safety. Could you please watch your children and their siblings when in our playground and remind them they cannot go on the play equipment unless they have an adult with them. This is particularly critical outside of session times when the children are in the care of the parents and not covered by the setting insurance should there be an accident

**Beyond the gates.** We are so grateful to everyone that supported our sponsored threading last summer. With the Rising 5's also holding a sponsored wake and shake we were able to raise £1000.00. This is an amazing amount of money and meant that not only were we able to complete the first section of our outdoor make over we were also able to start the next phase. The outside is a very important extension of our learning world and whilst staff have great plans, there is not enough hours in the day or sometimes pennies in the kitty to be able to realise them so for us this has been a huge achievement. Our all weather area now offers an astro turf ground framed by sun canopy allowing it to be used even when we have the sun. We have placed some artificial trees that present opportunities for us to discuss height, colour, shape size and number. The surrounding fences have been sympathetically painted to allow us to theme the area should we so wish. It has been rewarding to watch all the children enjoy this area. Staff have also started to paint the trellis but this is proving a mammoth job, with more astro ready and bowls on standby to turn the walk way into a sensory bare

foot challenge. If anyone is at a loose end for a couple of hours in the next week or so and would not mind helping to finish the painting we would be so very grateful. All materials and refreshments provided.



Keep your eyes out for updates as our next area is to contain raise bed planters, possibly a green house or similar and will involve painting lots of bright coloured beach huts on the fence behind to create a lovely beach scene.



**Focus for learning.** With the changing of the season we are starting to look at the weather elements and how they have an effect on our environment. Running alongside this we are also working with two dimensional shapes and where we see these in our environment. If you go anywhere with your child where you can explore either of these concepts in more detail especially using rich expressive language this will enhance your child's learning experience and although them to share their knowledge with you. If they do provide you with some opportunities to observe what they are learning with us, please e-mail your key worker as this will show that your child understands and then transfers their knowledge applying it in a different place and we can use your updates within your child's development records.

