



Autumn Newsletter 2019

A message from our chair.... It's been a brilliant start to the year at Little Meadow. A huge thank you must go to the staff for instigating a pilot Breakfast Club and making sure Out of School Club is as popular and fun as ever. You've kept the team extremely busy – which is a good thing! All whilst planning and running very busy Early Years sessions. These have focused on following the children's leads and interests. The playrooms are always a hive of activity, full of laughter and fun. Behind the scenes Sharon and the team have been working hard on the current SEF (Self Evaluation Form) which is a very important reflection process. They have also been carrying out an audit of the setting and what it means to the children. Sharon can identify and celebrate successes, as well as looking at where improvements can be made. So much unseen work goes into making Little Meadow the special place that it is.

This audit process identified the cloakroom as an area unreflective of the setting and the new improved cloakroom (courtesy of Ecclesiastical) looks simply stunning. The amount of time and effort that has gone into improving the environment for the children is really appreciated by all. Remember, we always need your support to keep Little Meadow up and running and it's never too early for me to remind you of the AGM that occurs in the spring! Please keep an eye out for the date.

Rising 5's....The children have settled well into life in Rising 5's. They are enjoying our Fairy Tales theme and following the children's lead we have started with The Three Little Pigs, creating our own houses and thinking about what they are made of. Our library is starting to take shape, we have had some lovely books sent in and can't wait to send them out to share with you.

Next term we will be holding parent reviews to share your child's progress and discuss the way ahead.

The Photographer will be joining us in session on Monday 18th November to take portraits of the children in time for Christmas. A letter will follow shortly regarding the Family session taking place on Sunday 17th November.

Rising 3's.....At the start of September we welcomed our youngest children into session. They have now all settled in well and are beginning to see and enjoy all that Little Meadow has to offer. We are starting to learn our new routines and getting used to sitting and eating our snack in a group. Dinosaurs are becoming a firm favourite as well as the indoor playhouse. When the weather has allowed they have enjoyed playing outside in the construction area as well as helping to wheelbarrow soil into our new planters.

Staff will soon be inviting parents in to share 2 year checks and plans for the new term

Thank you...

We had amazing support for our Macmillian coffee morning raising £95.00 for the charity. Please can we thank everyone who attended, made cakes or donated.

The Christmas cards were sent off on Friday and should be back with us shortly after half term. We will notify you when they are ready to collect from the office. Thank you again to all those who placed orders, the small commission we make on each pack will enable us to replenish some of the toys for the children.

Important dates.....

Half term begins on **Monday 28th October** and we return on **Monday 4th November**.

Family photo session **Sunday 17th November** and Rising 5's photos on **Monday 18th November**.

Rising 5's finish for Christmas on **Friday 20th December** and Rising 3's on **Thursday 19th December**. All sessions resume on **Monday 6th January 2020**.

Clothing...As the weather is turning more and more inclement please can we ask that all children attend session with a named coat and if appropriate hats, scarves and gloves as well. We do try and access the outdoor area every day which often means wrapping up warm.

Please can we also ask any clothes that are borrowed from the setting be washed and returned in a timely manner. If anyone has any spare clothes ranging from age 2-4 we would be grateful for donations.

Council News....

We have recently been approached by the council to see if the building can be used as a polling station in any future elections. As it was originally built by the council and under the terms of our lease is to be used by the community we believe this is something that could well go ahead. Rest assured where possible we will let you know in plenty of time if this should happen and what alternative arrangements we have had to make.

Four legged friends....

We have noticed that a lot of our parents are bringing their dogs with them to collect children. Please can we remind you that unfortunately they are not permitted into the playground and please could they be tethered up away from the gate as some children may be wary of dogs.

Penny pot....

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our penny pot scheme. So far we have raised £79.00 and we have used this to buy some bookshelves to use in our new library.

A few things to remember...



Please send your child in with their blue book bag every day. It is an essential means of communication with you and also good practice for when the children go to school. Please can you also get into the habit of checking them every day as often important letters come home via this way and are often missed.

If you send your child into setting in wellies, please provide a change of footwear as it can be quite uncomfortable to spend the whole session in them. If possible please could you bring a spare pair of wellies into the setting.

Please try not to use your mobile phones in the playground. The children come out with lots of exciting things to tell you.

We have recently purchased a new mobile whiteboard and are using this to communicate with parents, look out for it in the playground. There is also a space available for any feedback you may wish to give us, questions or comments. However as always, if anything is urgent please pop in and speak to a member of staff directly. Our door is always open.