

BRIGHT SPARKS NEWSLETTER

November 2014



Bright Sparks

NEW IMPROVEMENTS



Childcare

WEBSITE

As many of you already know, we have had a website for a while now where you can check prices, read our prospectus and Ofsted report, pay your invoice's etc. The intention was always also to have the site as a resource for you to use with a parents page with useful information, a news page for the newsletters etc. and a children's page with activities and games for them to play. With the current site, this was quite hard to achieve, so we did not manage this as well as we would have liked. We are now though in the process of updating the website and we value your views and would love to hear what you think. This is the address of a website that we think would be good for us to take ideas from and for you to look at.

www.beddingtonparkprimary.com. We have attached a feedback form, which we would be grateful if you could complete and hand in.

Learning journeys

We are also trialing a new online Learning Journey provided by Tapestry, which will give you access to your child's development with us. To do this, you will be given an individual log in where only you and us will have secure access. On this, you will be able to leave comments and feedback, which will be a great tool for communication between us. This system is completely secure and is recommended by Plymouth City Council's Early Years Department.

PAYMENT SYSTEM

We have also had the facility for card payments on the website for quite a while now, enabling you to pay your fees on the computer at a convenient time for you. However this has recently needed updating to make it more secure so we have taken the opportunity to look into a better system. Consequently we have signed up with a new company that provides a state of the art secure payment system, that will make all of your online payments easier and more accessible. As well as the link on the website, we will be able to send you an invoice by email with a payment link on it that you can use if you wish. We will also be able to put various other links on the website so you would be able to purchase the uniform for example from the website. We would also be interested to know if you would like us to offer other things for sale from the website, like photos or memorabilia, or maybe some useful resources you can use with your children that we have used ourselves or had recommended to us by our advisors at Early Years. The new system should be up and running by the end of the month. And until then you can still pay by card through the current system in our office.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Promotions

All the staff have been doing such a good job that I have been able to promote most of them and step back myself to focus more on the business side of things, with the aim of opening a second nursery once suitable premises becomes available.

The promotions are as follows:

Sharleene (who we need to congratulate on her recent wedding and becoming Mrs Sturgess) is now the Manager and Senior Designated Person for Child Protection (CPO).

Lisa is now the Deputy Manager, as well as pre-school leader and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)

Kerry is now the toddler supervisor as well as health and safety officer

Amy is the early morning supervisor and deputy SENCO and CPO.

Apprentices have all qualified

Chris has completed his NVQ2 in childcare and is now doing his NVQ3 in playwork.

Michaela has completed her NVQ2 in playwork and is now doing her NVQ3 in playwork

Alyssa has completed her NVQ2 in childcare and is doing her NVQ3 in childcare

New starter

Due to the large number of new children booked to start Bright Sparks in January, we are interviewing for a new apprentice. We will let you know who this will be as soon as we have a successful candidate.



Bright sparks Christmas Fayre is to be held on Saturday 29th November from 11-1. We are still asking parents to donate prizes for our raffle and tombola. All help is greatly appreciated

New charges

We mentioned in our previous newsletter about parents dropping their children off early and also picking them up late. Unfortunately some parents are still doing this and as it affects our staffing ratio we now feel that we have no other option but to charge parents for this. We do only charge at an hourly rate therefore if you arrive say 10 minutes early or late we have no option but to charge you for a full hour.

New mud kitchen

As ever, we are working hard on improving the garden for the children. We now have a part time caretaker who spends most of his time on the garden and we have tasked him with making a mud kitchen (which should be finished soon) for the children to make-believe cooking in. We will provide real (safe) utensils for them to use, a sink, work surfaces and there will be top quality loam soil in a container for them to use (as this is very safe for them to use). We will of course try to keep the mess minimal (without interfering with the children's learning and development too much), by providing puddle suits and wellies to wear.

Cold weather

Now that the cold weather is here we are asking that parents provide suitable outdoor clothing for the children i.e. hat and gloves and a waterproof coat in case we have the chance of spending some time in the garden.

January bookings

We have a lot of new children starting in January and we are getting a lot of new enquiring about spaces. To avoid any disappointment, please can you let us know as soon as possible what your requirements for January are, especially if you are thinking of changing your session.

Thank you.

Mandy