

Nelmes Pre-School Newsletter

Date: September 2023

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Cheryl Kelly



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Joanne Lambert



Lucia Worthington



Liz Miller



Kerry Andrews



Sophie O'Reilly

Members of Staff

Cheryl Kelly, Owner/Manager/SendCo
Sian Briton-Watkins, DM & SendCo
Liz Miller, Practitioner
Joanne Lambert, Practitioner
Lucia Worthington, Practitioner
Kerry Andrews, Practitioner
Sophie O'Reilly - Housekeeper

Session Times

All Day - 9am – 3pm
Morning - 9am – 12 Noon
Afternoon - 12 Noon – 3pm
Collection should be prompt.

Staff members need to be aware if someone unfamiliar to them is collecting your child for safety reasons.

Autumn Term Dates 2022

Term Starts Tuesday 5 September 2
Term Ends Wednesday 13 December 23
H/T 23 Oct – 27 Oct Inc

Nativity (This will be for leavers 2024 only)
Thursday 14 December – 10.00am.

Christmas Party Friday 15 December
(All children) 12 noon – 1.00pm.

Spring Term Dates 2023

Term Starts Tuesday 9 January 24
Term Ends Thursday 28 March 2024
H/T 12 Feb – 16 Feb Inc

Welcome

We would like to welcome back all our existing children to the setting and also a huge welcome to all the new children that will be joining Pre-School this term. We realise that this transition is a particularly difficult time for children and parents. However, we will offer you all the support we can and keep you informed of your child's welfare during their settling in period. Please bear in mind that most children new to the setting will cry at some point. If not immediately, then usually in a few weeks' time. This is a perfectly normal reaction to starting Pre-school, but unfortunately at the same time is a heart breaking experience for all. Also, please be pre-warned that many children will come out of school crying during the first week or two. This is an emotional reaction to seeing you all again and unless we have informed you otherwise, your children will not have been crying for the whole session. Children do become very overwhelmed at home-time.

Thank You

The staff of Nelmes Pre-School would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who kindly gave us gifts at the end of the Summer term. We are all touched by your kindness and appreciation.

Settling In

On Tuesday 5th September 2023, existing school children should arrive at school at 9.30am and 9.00am the rest of the week (from 6th September). Existing children should come into school in the usual way at the front door. If you would like to miss the rush then it is no problem to start 10 minutes or so later if you wish. New children have been advised of start times separately and will come into school via the garden (weather permitting).

We would request that parents leave the environment at the earliest opportunity. The children settle much better in the outdoor area and we cannot allow the whole class to play outside until all parents have left. At the end of the session children will be returned to you at the front outside door.

Could I please give my assurance that we will do our utmost to care for your children and provide a safe, stimulating and enjoyable environment for your child. We will call you during the session if your child is struggling to settle and will leave the decision to you as to whether you collect early or you leave your child for the duration of the session.

Road Closure 15th – 22nd September

Please note, that on the above dates Nelmes Road will be closed for re-surfacing. All driving parents will have to access Pre-School via Burntwood Avenue. Please be mindful that parents and children do congregate in the playground before coming into school and that you may have to park further along Burntwood Avenue during this week as I am sure it will be extremely busy.

Personal Belongings and Lunch Boxes

Please could you ensure that your child's personal belongings such as clothing, toys, comforters, lunch box's and drink bottles are **clearly named on the outside**. Lunch box contents should remain healthy and sensible and could I ask that you refrain from providing your child with fizzy drinks, or foods containing nuts ie: satay chicken or peanut butter. **This applies to all children, as we wish to avoid any contamination to those children which have allergies.**

Any grapes in lunch boxes should be cut in half length way.

Your child will need a water bottle (with water only) to drink throughout the day. This should be brought into school hall with them and should be clearly named.

Children should bring a packed lunch if they are staying for an all-day or afternoon session.

Keyworkers

Your child's keyworker will be advised in due course as there is still a lot of movement of sessions in the first few weeks and keyworkers can change as a result of this. However, staff are aware of who their key children most likely are from the beginning of term.

Session Availability Autumn Term 2023

At the current time the Pre-School is now full and I have no **availability for additional sessions**. Please note school fees from September 2023 will be £21.00 per session. This price will apply to all children including funded children.

Setting Contact Details

Could I please ask parents to make a note of the setting contact numbers and email address which are detailed at the top of the page. If you could add them to your contacts list or address books. If you need to contact us during school hours would you kindly use the hall number as it rings much louder. Calls to our mobile number and emails will be answered as soon as possible. However, could I stress that we are not on 24 hour call and messages and emails will not be answered after 6pm daily and will not be responded to over the weekend.

Child Illness / Absence

If your child is sick or suffering from diarrhoea could you please refrain from sending them to school. **Our 'Child sickness' policy states that children should not return to school for at least 48 hours after the last bout of illness.** I know it is difficult if you are a working parent but these kind of illnesses spread around the other children so quickly.

Also if your child is going to be absent from school could you please ring or email the setting and let us know. It is a requirement of the Local Authority that we know your child is going to be absent from school. 01708 479613

Setting Information

Could I please advise all parents that we do have a setting website which contains all the information you could possibly need during your child's time at Pre-School, including term time dates and forthcoming events, uniform requirements etc. I would be grateful if you could check the website for information prior to texting or emailing me, especially out of school hours.

nelmespreschool.co.uk .

Themes/Planning

The themes we shall be covering in setting this Autumn half term are:

Week 1	Free play – settling in.
Week 2	Free play – settling in.
Week 3	Free play – settling in.
Week 4	Number.
Week 5	Colour
Week 6	Emergency Services
Week 7	Cooking

HALF TERM

Week 8	Firework Safety and Autumn
Week 9	Diwali
Week 10	Diwali and Desert Animals
Week 11	Christmas / Decorations
Week 12	Christmas / Decorations
Week 13	Christmas / Cooking
Week 14	Free Play

You can help your children at home by discussing the above topics with them.

In line with the above we will also be giving the children that will be starting mainstream school next year (2024), School Work Bags which will contain more specific learning in the form of number work, phonics and shapes. These book bags will go home with the children but should be brought into school daily. If you do not bring their book bags to school daily, the school work will not be completed. Parents can also help the children with the activities in their book bags and please write what you have done in the children's yellow books.

If you wish to assist your child with their phonic learning please could you watch the following link to ensure you teach your children correctly :

Sounds of the English Phonic Code – Synthetic Phonics.wmv

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE>

Pronouncing phonic sounds correctly is taught very differently to how it may have been when you were at school. Also please be aware if extended family members such as grandparents are helping with phonic work that they also watch the video. It gets very confusing for the children if we are teaching correctly at school and at home they are being taught in the 'old school' way.

Collecting Children

For security reasons, if you are going to send someone to collect your child from Pre-school that staff are unfamiliar with then we need to have a password, which is known only to us, yourself and the person collecting. It puts us in a very difficult situation if people arrive to collect children that we do not know. This can lead to much distress to the child and lots of calls being made to trace the parent, whereby parents will ultimately have to collect their child in person. You have been sent an email already if you have not yet provided me with a secure password.

If you wish to collect your child early from setting for school runs that is perfectly acceptable. Please ring the bell and your child will be brought out to you. In the colder months please be patient at the door whilst we get your child's coat on. If it is not raining we will aim to put bags and coats outside for you. If for any reason we do not hear the bell, it can get very loud in setting, please call the setting phone.

Accidents in Pre-School

As much as possible I would like to reassure parents that we do our utmost to prevent children hurting themselves, or being hurt by other children within the setting. However, we cannot stop every accident or incident from occurring and we cannot stop a child tripping or falling over. Should your child incur an injury in setting and we see, or are made aware of the incident by a child, it will be advised to you via email. If any accident is serious we will of course aim to contact parents by telephone.

Uniform

Please note that we have a uniform in place at Nelmes Pre-School which all children should adhere to and information regarding uniform is on the setting website nelmespreschool.co.uk.

Admission to School 2024 – please do not forget!

Children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 will be starting at an infant or primary school in September 2024. You must apply for a school place online at www.schooladmissions@haverling.gov.uk. Links to this site are also on our pre-school website under the 'School Admissions' tab on the left hand side. However, should you require further information you can call the admissions team directly on 01708 434600.

Please be aware that registering at your preferred school does not guarantee your child a place at that school. School selection for children is chosen by the local authority.

The on-line admissions facility will open on 1 September 2023 and will close on Monday 15 January 2024. Any applications received after the closing date will be considered late and will affect your child's chances of receiving a place at your preferred school. Parents will receive their school offer via the on-line, Local Authority, system on Tuesday 16 April 2024. Please speak to me (Cheryl Kelly) if you have any concerns regarding the school transition procedure.

Funding Options

There are many differing funding options available to parents. If I could suggest you familiarise yourselves with these options by logging into the 'Childcare Choices' government website or using the link via our setting website nelmespreschool.co.uk.

If you are thinking of taking up the option of '30 Hour Funding' then you **MUST APPLY FOR FUNDING YOURSELF**. Once you have a reference number you must send it to me for verification via the Local Authority as soon as possible along with the main applicants date of birth and national insurance number.

I would advise you not to delay on this. If I do not have a validated reference number by the time we return to Pre-School on 5 September 2023 you will be charged for your child's place at £21.00 per session.

30 Hour Funding

Could I please, at this time, remind parents to think about renewing their 30 Hour codes for the Spring Term 2024. This must be done before the end of December 2023 and I would advise parents not to leave this until the last minute.

When to apply

You can apply for 30 hour funding when your child is 2 years and 36 weeks old.

When your child turns 3	When they can get 30 hours from	Recommended time to apply
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	15 October to 30 November
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	15 January to 28 February
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	15 June to 31 July

You can apply outside of these recommended dates but you might not receive your code in time. You must have a valid code by the end of the month before a new term starts.

Nelmes Face Book Page

We do have a setting Face book page and all parents are encouraged to join this page in order to keep abreast of what is going on in setting. Sian may also upload photos onto this page of the activities that are available for the children which will give parents an insight into what kind of activities the children have access to. Just search on Facebook 'Nelmes Pre School Mums'.

Birthday Sweets

Many children and parents like to bring sweets into setting to celebrate children's birthday's. Whilst we do not oppose this we would be very grateful if the sweets you bring in could be chocolate based. Sweets must **NOT** contain nuts and **Haribo's or sweets containing gelatine are not permitted**. This forms part of our setting policy and can be reviewed in our Policies and Procedures which are available on our website.

Snack Bar Fees Now Due

Snack bar fees are also due at the beginning of every term and is £20 per term. This also goes some way to assisting us financially with providing better resources for the children whilst in setting. Without this additional financial support, we could not do this for the children.

Toilet Training

If your child is currently toilet training would you please let us know in order that we can ensure your child is taken to the toilet more frequently. If your child is currently wearing nappies could they please attend school in a 'clean and dry' nappy.

Changing Weather and Children's Bags

Please could you ensure that children have a complete change of clothing in their bags, including shoes and that clothing is appropriate for the current weather conditions. If your child is in nappies then they will need spare nappies, wipes and nappy bags. Also a plastic carrier bag for wet or soiled clothing would be helpful.

I think that is everything! However, if you have any questions please let me know and I will try and get back to you as soon as possible.

Kind regards, Cheryl