

Little Acorns Pre-School



Welcome!

A rather belated welcome to the following children and their families, who have joined us this term: Alexia, Elliott, Elsie, Kyle, Matilda and Max. They have settled into Little Acorns really well and we hope they are enjoying their time with us.

Staff News

We have recently said a sad farewell to Myfanwy, who has left Little Acorns for pastures new, after 16 years of dedicated service. A big thank you to everyone who brought in cakes and biscuits and helped to set up/clear up the hall at last Tuesday's surprise leaving party. It was a really lovely send-off, with so many past and present Little Acorns families, and Myfanwy was touched by all the kindness and generosity. We wish her every happiness with her move and we know she'll keep in touch!

As you're all aware, we have spent the last few months recruiting for Myfanwy's successor and shortlisted eligible candidates for interviews just before half-term. Following a Committee meeting last week and with the support of staff, we have extended an offer to the candidate who we believe will be an excellent new Supervisor and take Little Acorns forward in the coming years. We are in the process of finalising her contract, with a view to her starting in January, and will send out more details regarding her appointment as soon as it's 'official'. In the meantime, we would like to thank our wonderful team of staff who are doing such a superb job as always. If you have any queries in the interim please do not hesitate to speak with Jackie (acting Supervisor) or Emma Pearce (Chairperson).

Your Preschool Needs You!

A big thank you to those of you who have been able to spare some time to help at preschool - whether it is washing up or helping with the children. Spending time at Little Acorns also gives you the opportunity to see how your child interacts with other children and staff and the various activities they select and enjoy. The staff find offers of help invaluable and really appreciate any time you are able to spare, whether it's a full session or just 15 minutes to wash the snack dishes. We have a parent helper rota in the foyer for you to sign up in advance, but please feel free to let a staff member know if you are able to help at short notice (i.e. if you arrive early to collect your child). If you have other children over the age of 18 months they are welcome to join you.

Current Committee Members

Most of you know who we are, but for those who don't...

Co-Chairs	Naomi Bruce & Emma Pearce
Vice Chair	Jenny Lewsley
Secretary	Sophie Walker
Treasurer	Steph Ranson
Social/Comms Secretary	Lucy Badger
Member	Hannah Alsbury-Morris
Member	Kathryn Lucas
Member	Eve Thornton

School Admissions

Parents of children born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011 must apply for a Primary School place for September 2015. The deadline for applications is **15 January 2015**. You can apply online at <https://eadmissions.westsussex.gov.uk/prefs.php> or phone **03330 142 903** to request a paper form.

New Website

Don't forget to visit the new-look Little Acorns website www.littleacornsifold.co.uk and keep an eye on the Noticeboard for regular news and updates.

Supporting your Pre-School

Christmas Items

Your children's cards, gift tags, mugs and tea towels have arrived and are being distributed this week. Due to an error in the original print run ('Little Acorns Pre-school' was printed twice on the cards and tea towels) we have received a second (correct!) batch and you will be given both sets. A big thank you to Naomi and the staff, who helped the children create some real masterpieces! Thanks to all your orders we have raised approximately £150 for Little Acorns!

Easy Fundraising

A really easy but effective way to raise money for Little Acorns is to order goods online from major retailers via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/littleacornsifold>

You won't pay anything extra but the retailer makes a donation to Little Acorns. This costs you nothing and it is so quick and easy to do. Retailers include Amazon, John Lewis, Next, M&S, Argos and hundreds more! We have managed to raise £86 so far. If everyone goes through this scheme to order their Christmas presents, we could easily double that figure!

Join Our Committee

Becoming a committee member can be a good way to meet other parents and does not need to be time-consuming. Roles include counting Tesco and Sainsbury's vouchers, organising and helping at the Easter fair, keeping the parent contact list and helpers rota up to date, typing letters and marketing. Please ask a member of the staff or committee for further information.

Printer Cartridges

Please bring in your used printer cartridges and put them in the box in the foyer - we can raise money by sending them to recyclingfactory.com.



What's Happening this Term?

Children in Need - Friday 14th November

Don't forget to send your children to pre-school wearing something spotty this Friday! There will be some Pudsey colouring and Pudsey biscuits for the children to decorate. We will be collecting any donations that you would like to make to this worthy cause.



INSET Day

Please note - Little Acorns will be closed on **Monday 24th November** for an INSET day (staff training).



Coffee Morning

Olivia's mum, Sandy, has kindly offered to host a coffee morning on **Wednesday 26th November** at 10am. Please do pop along for a cuppa and a chat, children welcome.

Christmas Social Evening

Please come along for some Christmas drinks on **Thursday 4th December** at the Onslow Arms, Loxwood from 8pm.



Kathryn Craig photos available soon

The photographs recently taken by Kathryn Craig should be ready to view and purchase in the next week or so.

Christmas Party

On **Thursday 18th December** we will be holding our Christmas party for the children. There will be food, drinks, music and a very special visitor!



Nativity

On the last day of term (**Friday 19th December**), parents and carers are invited to come along at 9:45am to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and some mince pies prior to the Nativity Play at 10.30am. The Committee is organising a Christmas raffle to raise money for new pre-school equipment. Donations of Christmas-related items such as wine, chocolates, crackers and luxury food items to put in a hamper would be greatly appreciated. Please put your items in the box in the foyer.



Christmas Postbox

The Christmas postbox will be put out in December for the children to post cards to each other.

Diary Dates

Monday 24 November	- INSET day
Wednesday 26 November	- Coffee morning
Thursday 4 December	- Christmas drinks (parents)
Thursday 18 December	- Christmas party with Santa
Friday 19 December	- Nativity play & end of term
Monday 5 January	- Spring Term starts
Thursday 15 January	- School applications deadline
Mid/late January	- AGM (date TBC)

Reminders

Childcare Vouchers

If your child does not yet qualify for the government-funded pre-school sessions or is attending pre-school more than their funded 15 hours a week, make sure you are taking advantage of the childcare voucher scheme. This is a special Government scheme operated through employers that allow you to pay for childcare from pre-tax salary. It might not sound big, but the impact can be huge. Visit <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/calcs/ccin.htm#1> for further information.

Arrival & Collection Times

May we remind you that Pre-school morning sessions start at 9:15am and end at 12:15pm. Children staying for lunch should be collected at 1:30pm and those who attend the Tuesday afternoon session finish at 3:15pm, unless school pick up times necessitate an earlier collection.

Learning Journals

You are welcome to look at your child's Learning Journal whenever you wish: please just ask your child's key person. This Journal includes photos and observations about your child's learning and provides a lovely record of achievement for you to keep and look back on in the future. Please feel free to contribute to your child's Learning Journal in any way. This could be giving details or photos of a milestone your child has reached at home or perhaps a recent trip, outing or family event.

Information Book

A book has been specially put together to inform parents about the Early Years Foundation Stage and how we plan for your child at Little Acorns. This is a useful book to find out about how your child learns whilst at pre-school. You are welcome to view it in the small hall at any time.