

Newsletter



Spring Term 2017

Welcome and Happy New Year everyone!

This term.... we will be looking at and basing our themes on the following exciting events; Chinese New Year (Rooster Year), Valentine's day, World Book Day, Transport and we will be celebrating Mother's Day and Easter. We will also be making Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (28th February), if anyone would like to join in to help make pancakes on this day that would be very much appreciated. As a reward for helping you get to enjoy the pancake creations with the kids.

Nativity.... I think we can all agree that the Nativity was a huge success. The children worked very hard during the whole of December learning and practicing the Christmas songs and rehearsing the play, which paid off. Thank you to all parents/carers who came to see their children act out the play in their own unique way. If you wish to re-live the event a DVD will be available soon to purchase!

Thank you to the committee, who organised the raffle and cake stall, and to the parents/carers who bought the delicious mince pies. We raised a fantastic £100 which will go towards the pre-school fund.

Thank you for your support and best wishes for the new year.
Lucie



Staff News

At the end of the last term we bid a fond farewell to Linda, so at the start of this term we are delighted to welcome Emma Shotter to the team. Emma is working on Friday's on a temporary basis.

I qualified in 2003 with a CAHCE level 3 Diploma in childcare and education. After which I worked in the pre-school at Pennthorpe School for 2 years as a Nursery Nurse, then as Nanny for 10 years until I had Isla. I also currently work at Boots in Cranleigh part-time now Isla is older and at Little Acorns.

I live in Billingshurst with my husband Dan, Isla, my teenage step daughter and our Dog Barney.

Best Wishes Emma

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Call for New Committee Members

We are delighted to welcome Becca (Noah's mum) and Alison (Albert's mum) to the committee and we thank them in advance for their help!

Little Acorns is a non-profit making, registered charity and as such cannot operate without a committee of parents, so we would be delighted if you could spare some time to help out (it's really not that bad and a bit of a giggle at times!). For a number of our committee members the next two terms will be their last and as we have lots of fundraising events planned, it would be great to get some new faces on board to learn the ropes! If you are interested in joining, then please either speak to Lucie or to one of us:

Sophie - Chair (Hattie's mum)
Emma - Vice chair (Maisie's mum)
Caroline - Secretary (Nell's mum)
Victoria - Treasurer (Ophelia's mum)
Jenny (Martha's mum)
Emma (Isla's mum)
Faye (Eleanor's mum)

If you are unable to join the committee, but would like to be involved in organising a fundraising event, then please also contact us. Any support you can offer is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing you at our fundraising events!

Parent /Carers Helpers

Don't forget, we encourage all parents to come in and help at Little Acorns, whether it's for 30 minutes or 3 hours!

This is an ideal opportunity to observe your child's interests and see how they interact with the other children and staff. Also, if you (or grandparents/ aunts/uncles etc.!) have a particular skill or profession you may be interested in sharing with the children, we would really love to hear from you as the children have really enjoyed these visits in the past.

If you feel you could help in any way, please speak to Lucie or a member of the team.

A message from Linda

Dear All,

I would like to thank you so much for the flowers and the lovely bowl. It certainly is something to treasure and it will bring back wonderful memories of Little Acorns, especially when I unpack it in our new home!

Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to everyone for the card, gifts and the good wishes for my retirement.

Happy New Year.

Love from Linda

Inset Day

Please note that Little Acorns will be **closed** on Friday 24th March for staff training.

New Starters

We would like to welcome Callie Etheridge, Ariana Harden Fernandez and Zach Marsh who all join us this term.

Happy Birthday to the following children celebrating birthdays this term...

Nell, Annie, Elliot, Maisie, Evie and Ivy S.

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Dates for your diary!

- **Wednesday 8th February – AGM at Kelsey Hall, followed by drinks and nibbles at Emma Pearce’s house, all welcome**
- Tuesday 14th February – Valentine’s Day
- **Monday 20th – Friday 24th February – Half Term (Pre-school closed)**
- Tuesday 28th February – Pancake Day
- **Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day**
- Friday 24th March – Inset Day (Pre-school closed)
- **Saturday 1st April – Spring Fair at Kelsey Hall**
- Friday 7th April – Last Day of term
- **Thursday 18th May – Quiz night at Kelsey Hall**
- Saturday 17th June – Summer Social night – Kelsey Hall

We look forward to seeing you at our fundraising events!!!!

AGM & Social Night

We hope you can all join us for the AGM at Kelsey Hall followed by drinks and nibbles at Emma Pearce’s house on Wednesday 8th February.

Coming Soon!

Watch out Sainsbury’s Active Kids is back soon!



Sickness Policy

With many nasty bugs doing the rounds at the moment, we would like to remind you of our sickness policy, to avoid the spread of infection to other children. If your child has had a bout of sickness or diarrhoea in the last 48 hours or has a temperature above 38°C (before medication) please keep your child at home.

Please inform the pre-school as to the nature of any infection your child has so that we can alert other parents if necessary. If children appear unwell during the day, staff will call the parents and ask for the child to be collected.

Easy Fundraising

Don’t forget when shopping online to use Easy fundraising. It is a free and easy way for you to raise money for our pre-school.

www.easyfundraising/causes/littleacornsifold.

It’s also free to join, so please sign up now.



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 <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/childcare-vouchers>