

MILLAND VALLEY NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter September 2021

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**Term Dates 2021**

**Autumn Term**

**Monday 6 Sep'21 – Tuesday 14 Dec'21(12noon)**

**Half Term**

**Monday 25 Oct'21 – Thursday 28 Oct'21**

**Term Dates 2022**

**Spring Term**

**Tuesday 4 Jan'22 – Thursday 7 Apr'22**

**Half Term**

**Monday 21 Feb'22 – Thursday 24 Feb'22**

**Summer Term**

**Monday 25 Apr'22 – Thursday 21 Jul'22(12 noon)**

**Half Term**

**Monday 30 May'22 – Thursday 2 Jun'22**

**Welcome back and welcome to our new families. We hope you have had a lovely summer.**

**Please remember to follow all the guidelines regarding Covid-19 this term. We will keep you posted on any changes but currently whilst mask wearing at the moment is optional, staff would appreciate it if you would please wear one if you enter the setting. We will continue with thorough and regular hand washing for the children and staff. Hand sanitiser will be available. Please ensure no extra toys come in from home. Equipment at the nursery will be cleaned regularly. We will continue to spend as much time outside as possible providing a varied curriculum for the children. For further information please see attached.**

**FEES**

The hourly rate is £7 per hour.

Additional charges:

French on Tuesday morning for the Oaks £1.75 pw,

Wednesday Music session 11am for all children £1.75pw. This will be a new addition to some of you on your invoice due to the change of time for the music session.

Woodworking Wednesday morning & Thursday pm for the Oaks £6 per term.

These charges are necessary to help us maintain the high standards we always strive to achieve at each session through training for our staff, resources and insurance etc. Please speak to Gill if you have any queries regarding your invoice.

Invoices are sent out at the start of each half term by email and we would ask you make payment promptly. Funded children (following their third birthday) are entitled to 15 hours per week of free nursery time. There is funding available for some two year olds, but there are clear guidelines on who is eligible – dependent on income. If you would like further information please speak to Sarah/Gill.

We are open 38 weeks per year. You can pay directly into our account via bacs – our bank details are: Santander, A/c Name: Milland Valley Nursery School, Sort Code: 09-06-66, A/c No.:40249735, Ref.: your child's name.

**SESSION ROUTINE**

**We will be using the main front wooden doors. Please queue round the side of the bunting, towards the kitchen, remembering social distancing at all times. Children are allowed behind the bunting but there will be no staff on hand outside. Please keep them away from any equipment or toys that are out for the session.**

**PLEASE RE-READ AND COMPLY WITH ALL EMAILS REGARDING COVID-19 GUIDELINES AND CHANGES TO THE SESSION ROUTINES AT NURSERY.**

Unless your child is a 'new' child please do not come into the setting. Children will need to be handed over to a member of staff at the door. Individual arrangements can be discussed.

While we will be meeting on a termly basis to discuss your child's wellbeing and progress, if there is anything that occurs that is of that day's concern and might affect the enjoyment of the session please don't hesitate to mention to the staff on the door or ask for a brief chat with a member of staff at drop off.

Your help and understanding is greatly appreciated. We hope this can be managed in a speedier manner this term

**NO HOME TOYS AT NURSERY PLEASE** (unless it is your child's 'Focus week')

**COVID-19** - We would ask you please to read all the emails sent out giving guidelines on equipment from home.

**CLOTHING/PERSONAL POSSESSIONS**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH PANDEMIC GUIDELINES WINDOWS ARE KEPT OPEN DURING THE SESSION.**

**Would you please ensure your child still has warm clothing and extra layers, such as a fleece.** The children will also still need sunhats, We do like to take the children out in the rain, but this is not possible if your child does not have a suitable hooded coat. **Please provide spare clothing for your child including socks!**

**SUNNY DAYS AND SUNCREAM**

Please ensure your child has suncream on. We can help re-apply at lunchtime but only if they have a named suncream in their bag. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS A LONGSLEEVED LIGHT WEIGHT TOP to help prevent sunburn.

We are always there to help the children with their clothing, but it is important they gain independence in this area – please ensure your child is dressed appropriately.

**WELLINGTON BOOTS ARE NEEDED EVERY DAY.**

**\*\*\*ALL PERSONAL POSSESSIONS/CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED \*\*\*- .Lunch boxes, coats and boots a priority.**

**LUNCH BOXES**

**Please check that your child's lunch box is clearly marked with their name. Sausages, grapes and tomatoes should all be cut in half down the length of the item.**

Due to the severity of food allergies, please ensure your child's lunch box does not contain any foods with a **nut** content, e.g., cereal, muesli bars etc. This will enable us to ensure there is no cross contamination. Your full cooperation would be appreciated. We would also remind you that in keeping with healthy eating PLEASE **DO NOT PUT SWEETS** in your child's lunch. Whilst we have no noticeboard, we are happy to help with lunch box suggestions

**WATER BOTTLES**

PLEASE make sure the bottle is clearly marked with your child's name.

**30 HOURS EXTENDED FUNDING**

**If you are already claiming the extended funding, please check to see if you are in the "grace" period and need to renew your claim.**

The following link with help regarding the above extended funding.

[www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds](http://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds)

The extended 30 hours per week funding is available if both parents are working and earn the equivalent of 16 hours at the minimum wage per week currently £8.72p per hour (if you are a single parent and working you can also apply for the 30 hours) – there is an upper earnings limit of £100,000 per parent. The HMRC have a very good website regarding Early Years funding, together with a calculator to work out if you are eligible. Please let us know if you intend to claim the extra 15 hours.

#### **KEEPING UP TO DATE**

It is extremely important that all the information we have on record is up to date. This includes contact information (telephone numbers/emails, etc) and most important any dietary requirements/allergies your child may have.

#### **ON LINE TAPESTRY/JOURNALS – CARE DIARY**

It is very important that everyone looks at their child's journals on a regular basis. Input from home is extremely valuable, giving a much clearer picture of how your child is developing and the progress being made. There is a "Care Diary" facility that can be found under the menu tab. We are using the toileting icon. This will detail times when your child has had their nappy changed, or when it has been necessary to change clothing due to toileting. We also use the First Aid facility, so if your child has an accident, we will ask you to sign our ipad. The download will then be emailed to you.

#### **FOCUS CHILD**

You will have attached to this newsletter a date for your child's 'Focus week'. This is when your child will have a chance to share their interests with us. The week before we will have a chat with them, asking them what they like doing, any particular interests or what they've been up to. It would really help us if you can put anything on Tapestry the week before to prompt us and your child. For example, a trip to the beach and then maybe your child could bring in some shells they had found. Photos are great too. This week really helps us to get to know your child and see how we can help expand their play and learning.

#### **OAK OR ACORN?**

Several people have asked me what group their child is! Acorns are up to the year before school, Oaks are the final year at nursery before reception.

#### **WHITEBOARD**

If you see the whiteboard outside the hall, please do take a few moments to read what is on it. This is a quick and effective way to get up to date information/requests out to everyone.

#### **SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY**

Staff are becoming a little concerned and worried that they might offend some of you by declining "friendship" requests on social networking sites. We would like to advise you that they are following our policy guidelines regarding this issue and perhaps it would be easier if requests were not submitted. Your cooperation in this matter would be appreciated.

#### **ILLNESS**

**COVID-19** If your child is at all unwell, possibly showing signs of a temperature, cough, etc., please keep them at home and seek medical advice if necessary.

Please read our policy "Sick Child/Illness Policy". We would like to highlight the statement regarding children not returning to nursery for a minimum of 48hours after the last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

#### **CHANGE IN ROUTINE**

**If there is a change in routine regarding your child at nursery, i.e. someone else collecting at the end of the session, please let a member of staff know or phone the setting.**

**EMAIL – mvns1@hotmail.com**

Please, please remember to check your emails. This is the quickest way for us to get information to you regarding nursery. Let us know if your email changes.

However, if you need to speak to us, or get information to us, it is always advisable to phone.

Although we check the emails regularly, at weekends or during holidays there is always the possibility that we will not access the email address daily and therefore could miss something important.

**If you would like to make contact with other parents through our email, please speak to Sarah before doing so.**

This newsletter is available on the web site [www.mvns.co.uk](http://www.mvns.co.uk)

GH/SM September 21

Dear Parents

I am writing to let you know about changes to the curriculum that we follow for our pre-school children- it is called the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and runs from 0 until the end of reception

From September 2021 a new edition of this is coming into play which means that practitioners are not required to do so many 'physical' observations on children as in the past. The government has recognised that staff spend too much time on ipads, taking photos, and making observations of children resulting in staff missing opportunities and losing time chatting, teaching and getting to know their pupils. They feel that practitioners know their key children and these observations should be kept to a minimum.

Whilst I welcome this, I do not want you to feel that we will neglect Tapestry. We will still use it as the very important tool/link for home and nursery and will continue to put 'Wow' moments on each child's journal. You will definitely notice that there are fewer than you have been used to though. We will continue to put things that we have done as a group so you know what we are up to. The staff at Milland Valley Nursery School are all trained to know when a child is needing support and can recognise from experience if they may need extra help. We will always talk to you as a first point of contact.

Staff will continue to invite you in for a termly chat reviewing your child's development and interests. There will of course, be the opportunity to meet up whenever you want it, face to face with your child's keyperson- just mention this on the door.

Any questions, please let me know  
Sarah

## Covid Practice Sept 21

Having now been working through the pandemic for 18 months , many of the strategies we have brought in to reduce risk are firmly ingrained in our practice.

For our new families and as a reminder to existing families we are sending out this attachment.

We are operating as one 'bubble' –staff and children- and we continue to be outside for as much of the day as possible. The windows and French doors are open at all times so please ensure your children have warm clothes and vests on.

We will **not** tell children to stop holding hands if they are playing, nor will we ask them to move apart from each other when playing together with the Duplo for example. Children will naturally gravitate to each other and we are fortunate in our large hall and committee room for when we are inside. We do want to reassure you that children will be cared for affectionately and attentively, from a distance, unless contact is necessary eg, a fall or support needed to perform a task.

Toys are brought out on a rota system, once played with, they are either 'miltoned' or dated and not brought out for 3 days (we love Thursdays!)

Following government guidelines we are continuing with French and music, welcoming Veronique and Ally. These two peripatetic teachers are very aware of our risks to the children and the staff and wash their hands on arrival and departure Gill and I both feel the importance of keeping things as normal as possible for the children.

### Routine

- Start time will be 9am (except new children- 10am for first week)and you will be asked to follow social distancing whilst waiting for your child to be admitted. Please be patient and prompt at drop off and collection time- you may need an umbrella! We will be trying to feed several children in at once to make this speedier. If you want to speak to a member of staff, please ask.
- Whilst masks are no longer compulsory, please feel free to continue wearing one, respect social distancing- some staff will continue to use a mask on the door
- There will be spaced 2 meter chalk lines- please move from door as soon as possible
- The main wooden door will be locked after drop off. Please ring the bell
- The children will be accompanied by staff to wash their hands on arrival. There is regular handwashing throughout the day.
- Only new parents/carers are permitted in the hall for settling in or committee room or by prior arrangement. Please wear a mask and spend as much time outside.
- There will be no signing in book- the staff member will use the register
- If someone else is collecting your child, please phone us or tell us at the door
- Please ensure only one adult brings your child to nursery and no siblings unless unavoidable

### The session

- Staff will help if necessary, your child to wash their hands. This will be repeated regularly and obviously before and after eating and after visiting the toilet. On occasion we will also use alcohol hand sanitizer
- Please continue to use a bag for life for spare clothes, wellies hats and gloves.

### How you can help us- every day

- If anyone in your household has any covid-19 symptoms, please tell the nursery immediately. You will need to keep your child away from nursery for 14 days and update when test results come through, if tested
- Ensure your child has clean clothes on every day- the staff will follow this too.
- Children must have jackets/coat/cagoul with a hood every day, to enable us to go out in the rain
- Please provide waterproof trousers every day. Please practice with your child to ensure they can put them on! These need to be washed after each session
- Please do not permit your child to bring in **any** toys from home including comforters (unless a new starter)
- Ensure boots are named clearly and at nursery for every session
- Spare clothes must come in too- a full set as we will be outside with potentially lots of opportunities for children to get wet
- If your child has a cough or cold please do not consider sending them in. If they have had Calpol or any analgesic similarly, please do not send in

Thank you all so much for your support over this incredibly difficult time

Best wishes

Sarah and Gill