



## **Fir Trees News**

**May 2017**

**We reopen Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Dear Parents**

We should receive our caterpillars in the next few weeks. The children will be able to learn all about how they turn into beautiful butterflies. It takes approximately four weeks until the butterfly emerges from its chrysalis. It is always really exciting when we release them into the nursery garden.

Some of our home-grown vegetables are now ready to harvest. We will be having these for our snack time treats.

Some of the children last term were really excited about having real vegetables and fruit in the home corner areas. They have been chopping these up as part of their chosen role play. We will develop this interest into the summer term by incorporating a healthy eating and discovering new flavours theme. I hope they like the radishes as they will be our first crop ready to harvest from our allotment!!!

**Letters this term: Uu – Ll - Ff**

**Colours this term:** Primary recognition

**Number:** Recognition and shape formation during morning registration

**Focus Story:** Oliver's Vegetables, Supertato

### **Staff News**

Miss Roberts will soon be starting her maternity leave. We will miss her very much but can't wait to hear her exciting news. I am sure she will pop in with her new baby very soon.

We are very excited that Miss Danielle Beardsley will be joining us from the Summer Term. Danielle was previously the Deputy Manager at a nearby setting and has lots of Early Years' experience.

Miss Kathryn Jackson will also be joining us from the Summer Term. Kathryn has a Level Six qualification in Early Years and lots of experience supporting children with complex needs.

Miss Iona Wild has been with us since the Spring Term and has settled in really well.

We are very lucky to have such experienced staff join our team over the last few weeks!!!

## **Facebook**

Parents who follow our Facebook page will have seen a link which directs you to a Government web site which explains eligibility for free funded hours including 30 hours and also the new Tax-Free Childcare scheme – both available from September 2017.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

Many thanks to families who follow our page. It is really appreciated and I hope you find it helpful when talking to your children about what they have done at nursery today.

Some parents have asked why I don't regularly show children's faces on our page. I choose not to do this as I host the page and have responsibility for all children in our care. All pictures are the property of Facebook and the sharing or downloading of pictures is impossible to control and police. We occasionally have recognisable pictures of children with the express permission of parents when we are celebrating a specific achievement. I am very aware that even though parents have given their permission to share images, the child is currently of an age where they are unable to understand the implications of online pictures. Facebook images are in the public space and could be used by others at any future time and without that child's consent.

We will also only use images of the nursery environment when using Facebook for marketing or advertising an event.

## **Children Starting School September 2017**

You will soon receive information with regard to which school your child can attend in September 2017. Please let us know which school your child will be attending and we will arrange visits from the schools to the nursery. We have a large number who will be attending Brandesburton FS1 Class this year. Several families have let us know already how they will be using their 30/15 hour funding between Fir Trees and the school. If you intend to arrange split provision it would be helpful to get an idea of the sessions needed as our September register is very full ahead of the 30 hours funding. I appreciate that Brandesburton don't confirm place/availability until late in the term and that sessions booked may need to be altered at the last minute.

## **Family Evening**

You are all invited to the nursery on Wednesday 5th July between 5.00pm and 8.00pm to celebrate your child's achievements. There will be lots of artwork on the nursery walls and you can chat to your key worker about your child's progress.

Please feel free to bring your child along as I am sure they will enjoy showing you around the nursery. Please put your name on the list near the entrance door so we know who will be attending. If you can't attend just let us know and we will arrange for your child's key worker to chat with you at some point during the day before we finish for the Summer Term.

This is also an opportunity to discuss your child's school transfer records if they are leaving us this year. We will give you all the lovely photographs and observations in your child's folder.

## **Funded Hours**

If you need to increase your funded hours for the Summer Term, please let me know before Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May as this is the Local Authority deadline for additional funded hours. Also, our Register is filling up fast for September and I would appreciate it if you could let me know what sessions you require for Autumn 2017.

## Phonics

Our older children are doing really well with their phonic work each morning. They are all enjoying segmenting sounds they hear in phonically correct words. The children are recognising their names and are now hearing sounds within their name. Some children are forming their names independently however please do not worry if your child is not forming letters on paper yet as hearing the sounds and recognition of their name are more important skills and are also essential pre-writing skills. Well done everyone!!!

I am sorry that this is such a long newsletter and I hope you have ploughed your way through it successfully!!

**Alison Piper**  
**Nursery Owner/Manager**

