



# Otley Under Fives Newsletter



## Autumn Term 2023

### Dear Families

I hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday and are as excited as we are to start the new term. We have been very busy throughout the holidays sorting through our nursery to make it continually run smoothly and with the best resources we have available for you children.

During the holidays we have had a small revamp indoors, creating a new space for our younger children, this will primarily be used for under 3's but also for focused adult activities for all children, giving them a space to concentrate in, yet still be in their comfort zone of the main room.

As we start a new term and academic year, we are trying out some new ideas. The staff have all got together to brainstorm new experiences for the children, and we have come up with the final ideas:

**1 – Holiday Teddy.** We will be starting a new tradition where our beloved Dino Teddy will get to go home with a different child each weekend. Dino has a special note book for you to write about their adventures and you can also add pictures up on your tapestry for us to look at.



**2 – Bottles.** To help keep all our children hydrated and safe, we are asking parents to bring in their children's drinking bottles empty. We will fill them at nursery and refresh them throughout the day. If your child will not drink water please can you bring in an unopened bottle of juice for us to make up for them, when needed, Thank you.

**3 – Star of the week.** To highlight good behaviour we are creating star of the week. Each month we shall pick 2 children to receive this award and they will receive a certificate explaining their achievement.

**4 – Toys from home.** Last term we had children getting upset about toys that were brought from home coming into the nursery. We want to make sure all children are happy and settled, and understand that some comforting items may be needed, however the amount of toys coming in started to cause upset among the children, from not wanting to share what is theirs, to children hoping to play with the same toy they did the day before but it was no longer at nursery. For these reason can I please ask that toys from home are no longer brought in the nursery, Thank you.

**5 – Guarding Gatherings.** This term we will be starting our guarding gatherings, these will be once every half term where we would love to invite you into our setting for a special lunch/snack/event. This half term will be a Halloween party. Details will be emailed closer to the time but we look forward to you joining us.

**6 – Indoor Shoes.** Please can I ask all parents to either bring indoor shoes or slippers for their children to use while they are inside, just socks can get quite slippery and outdoor shoes trail in dirt and germs. We would be grateful for your cooperation with this.

### Hot Lunches

We have a new Autumn Menu.

This will be sent as a separate attachment with the newsletter email.

Hot lunches are £2.75 per child per meal. If you do wish for your child to have a hot lunch, please let us know at least 1 week before. This charge will be added to your invoice.

### Parents Evening.

With the summer holidays being such a long period we are sure your little ones have grown and developed in such amazing ways. To help us all have a good catch up we will be doing a parents evening on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September from 6.00-7.30pm. Slots are 15 minutes each, please speak to a staff member to book in your time.

### Funding

If you received funded sessions last academic year you will need to fill out a new PAF form for September, this can be sent to you by email or printed out at the setting. If your child will turn 3 this term, they will receive 15-hour funding after the Christmas holidays, starting in January. We also offer 30-hour funding so please do check if you are eligible by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

You can also check to see if you are eligible for 2 year funding by following this link [www.suffolk.gov.uk/two](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/two)

We part of the tax-free childcare scheme. Please apply for this by visiting <http://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account>

We also accept childcare vouchers.

### Reminders

Please see a list of things that all children will need each day at nursery:

- Sunhat and suncream/Raincoat
- Empty Drinks Bottle
- Weather appropriate shoes
- Multiple Spare Clothes
- Nappies, Wipes, Cream (if required)
- Slippers / Indoor Shoes (for grip / warmth)

Please can these items be labelled.

Our September term starts on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best regards and Many Thanks from Cathy and all the Team at Otley Under Fives.

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