**Newsletter**

**25th January 2021**

Dear Parent's/Carer's,

We hope you all had a wonderful weekend in the snow and if you couldn't get outside, we hope you enjoyed looking out of your windows at the beautiful winter landscapes.

It was fantastic to see all your photo's and comments on our closed facebook page - keep them coming. You certainly all looked as if you were having the best time ever.

In line with Government guidance we will still be encouraging the children to go outside as much as possible.  Look out for lots of photo's of us playing and learning in the snow.

**Toys from home**

We all need extra clothing during these cold frosty months - named gloves, hats, scarves etc.  We try our very best to make sure that the children go home with the correct accessories they bring.  With this in mind, could we politely request that you do not send children into pre-school with any unnecessary items.  Some children come to pre-school with little toys from home - these items can easily get lost and they are not covid safe.  Thank you for your cooperation with this.

**Lunchboxes**

Please do not include nuts or items containing nuts in lunch boxes.  Nuts are a choking hazard and can make someone with a nut allergy seriously ill.

We still have lots of children bringing sweets and chocolates to pre-school for lunch.  We know that shopping may be difficult for some families at the moment but we would ask that you do not include sweets and chocolates in your lunch box.  We encourage healthy eating - please see our newsletter dated 18th January for the link to BBC Good Food Healthy Lunch Box Ideas website for lot's of easy, healthy ideas.

**Pre-School topics "Birds" and "Winter"**

We will be making bird feeders at pre-school this week and will try to put lots of photo's on facebook.  We are still waiting to see all your bird feeders from home - gardens, window sills, patio's, front drives - wherever your bird feeder is kept, let's see the pictures on facebook.

See cbeebies for some simple ideas how to make a bird feeder ... <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/bird-feeder>

**Not attending a session?**

We are currently spending 30 minutes to an hour each day phoning parents when children do not arrive for a booked session.  It is an Ofsted requirement that we must contact families that do not attend a booked session and have not given us a reason why.  So, parent's and carer's please let us know by phone or email if you will not be attending your session - we don't mind what the reason is.  We would rather spend this time doing something lovely with the children at pre-school.

To the parent's that do let us know before the start of the session - thank you - it is really helpful.

**Alley Rules**

Thank you again to everyone for adhering to our covid "Alley Rules".  We are all helping to minimise the risk of transmission, protecting ourselves, our children and the wider community.

**One last request**

As "New Management" can we please make one last request?

Many of the new starters may not know that Little Oak Pre-School has stayed open through the whole pandemic.  We are a registered charity and rely heavily on government funding. We have closed for most holidays but early into the pandemic, last year, we stayed open (unfunded) during holidays for keyworkers. We stay late after pre-school and come in through the holidays to ensure enhanced cleaning.  We shop for cleaning products and cafe in our own time - you can imagine how hard that was during shop shortages.  We have the constant worry of changing Government guidance and what funding we will, or will not, receive.  We have been asked to stay open when all around are closed and to limit the use of PPE.

Our request is that you please think twice before saying something negative to the staff.

We are trying our very hardest to keep pre-school open and safe for all during very difficult times.  We are proud of our staff. We have directors that work tirelessly for free and we all have our own families and commitments, our own worries.  There have been negative comments made to the staff that have upset us all.

Despite this, please be assured that the safety, wellbeing and happiness of the children and families that attend Little Oak Pre-School remain our priority.

We are very aware that parent's and carer's may be anxious and have genuine questions and concerns - please email or telephone us at any time.