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7<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear parents and carers

#### **Temporary member of staff**

We would very much like to welcome Armana who is with us until the end of the Spring term. She is standing in for Janet who moved on due to an exciting opportunity for her. All parents/carers of Janet's children have been given a letter with the name of a temporary or permanent key worker, but if you are still unsure please see Margaret. We are hoping to employ a permanent member of staff for the start of the summer term.

#### **Early Literacy Meeting**

It was fantastic that so many of you turned up for the meeting on early literacy the other week. I hope it was helpful in gaining an insight in to how you can help your children to develop their literacy skills (including speech and language). It was also great that you asked so many questions too! If anyone would like a copy of the information sheets that were handed out they are in the lobby area for you to take.

The information was from the 'Early Education' website, which has a great variety of useful leaflets. The website address with the section on resources is <https://www.early-education.org.uk/downloadable-resources>

#### **World Book Day**

How lovely it was to see so many children dressing up on World Book Day! There was a wonderful selection of super heroes, dinosaurs and other animals, pirates, mini-beasts and characters from films as well as books. The children all had a great time listening to a selection of stories all through the day. They also enjoyed seeing the staff dress up too! We will be continuing to develop a love of books with our **Book Fair** on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. We hope as many of you as possible will come along and buy books for your children. We also receive a big percentage of the profit back in books for the nursery!

#### **Two Polling Days**

As there are two elections coming up and Low Hall Nursery is once more being used as a polling station it unfortunately means that we will be closed on the following days

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May- voting for London Mayor
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June- European Union elections

### **Parent Volunteers for Gardening**

Recently the children have been working really hard with Lin in the front garden, planting and looking after the flowers and bushes and helping to clean the pond. We would love to keep the garden looking nice for the children so if there are any parents/carers who would like to help with looking after it please could you see Lin.

### **Toilet Training**

If your child is coming up to 3 years old and not toilet trained yet, please could you use the Easter holidays to start the training. We are closed for just over two weeks so hopefully this will give you plenty of time to support your children with the process.

### **Lateness**

There are still some parents/carers who are collecting their children late at the end of the sessions. Please could you make sure that you are here in time so that as soon as the doors are open you can come and collect your child promptly.

### **Lost Property**

At the end of this term we will be removing our lost property box as it always seems to be overflowing. At the end of the week, if there are any clothes left behind they will be added to our collection of spare clothes for the children. If we have too many every few weeks they will be taken to a charity shop. Please make sure you take home all your child's things.

### **Spare clothes**

Some children still do not have any spare clothes on their pegs or in their boxes. Please could you check these bags or bring one in any day so that your child always has spare clothes when necessary. Please make sure they are in a proper bag (not a carrier bag as these are dangerous) with your child's name on it.

### **Closing the green gate with both bolts**

Several parents have expressed a concern that they sometimes find that the green gate at the end of the path has not been closed or that only the middle bolt has been closed. Please could you make sure that the **top bolt** is also closed to ensure the children's safety.

### **Cutting Children's Nails**

We have had a few instances of children being scratched accidentally by other children. To avoid this happening please could you always make sure that your children's finger nails are cut regularly. We very much appreciate your support in this matter.

### **Summer Fair**

Our Summer Fair this year is on **Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup>** and we are already preparing for it! We are looking for donations of high quality raffle prizes. We already have some lovely prizes such as tickets for days out.

Maybe you know someone who runs a restaurant who can donate a meal for two? You may work in a theatre or cinema and can donate some tickets? Alternatively you could donate a basket of goodies, a child's game or a beautifully decorated cake? All donations will be very much appreciated. Please see Mary.

### **Toys from home**

Please could you make sure that your children do not bring toys to the nursery and if they do they need to be taken home by parents/carers when you leave rather than left in their box. It causes quite a few problems with other children wanting to play with them and children get very upset when they go missing. Please check your child's pockets as recently some children have brought money and other inappropriate items from home into nursery.

### **Allocation of School Places**

If your child is starting school in September you will hear about the school they have been allocated on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April. We hope you are all offered the school you requested. As soon as you hear it is very important that you let Mary know where your child is moving on to.

### **Easter Playscheme.**

Our Easter play scheme will be open from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like to book your child in please see Mary. Alternatively, the booking form is on our website for you to download and bring in. If you pay for your child to attend all year round please could you let Mary know if there are any days they will not be attending.

### **Dates for your Diaries**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March** – 'Sports' activities outside and collecting for Sports Relief

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** - Book Fair

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**- Last day of Spring term

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April** – Daycare/Holiday Playscheme open

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April**- First day of Summer term

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**- Closed for Bank Holiday

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May**- Closed for the election of London Mayor

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May**-Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June- Closed for half-term break

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**- Closed for EU Referendum

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July**- Summer Fair

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July**- Last day of summer term