

Little Fishes

PRE-SCHOOL

SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER 2023

Summer Term ends - Friday July 14

Autumn Term begins - Monday September 4

Half Term Monday 23 - Friday 27 October

Autumn Term ends - Friday December 15

If your child is unwell or unable to come to pre-school for any other reason please let the setting know by 10am of the morning concerned by **text** to the setting phone on 07534 673297. After that time if we have not heard from you we will contact you to ensure all is well. Please note this phone is not monitored outside of session hours. Absences known in advance may be emailed or texted though the latter is preferred.

What's On At St Paul's Church?

Stay and Play 10am-12pm in the summer holidays

31st July

7th August

14th August



St Paul's
HOWELL HILL

We are opening the church hall and hub in the summer holidays for parents and toddlers to enjoy refreshments and our favourite toddler toys.

Places are limited so please sign up via www.saintpauls.co.uk/calendar. Tickets are available from the Friday before each session.

Thank You from Sue!

I would like to say a very big thankyou to all parents for their retirement gifts and kind words, all of which were hugely appreciated. I have truly loved working at Little Fishes, supported by committed, wonderful colleagues and volunteers and I know I will miss being part of it! It has been a delight to get to know the children who have come our way, especially seeing how they develop over their time with us. However it's time for something new and I'm also looking forward to some new challenges! I wish you all well for the future.



Outing for Children Going into Reception



The trip to YourSpace in Sutton was a great success. It was a lovely, sunny day and the children had great fun taking part in the various activities which had been meticulously planned by the two ladies leading the morning.

During the pond dipping workshop the children caught tadpoles and other water creatures and later on were shown a toad and a newt. Watching the bee keeper in his protective clothing taking the honey combs out of the hive was fascinating and to scrape the honey off and taste it was great! The children were able to take home a lovely memento of the visit too as one of the activities involved planting up a small succulent. It was an outing to remember which hopefully will be repeated next year.

Little Fishes Quiz

Thank you so much to those families that supported the Quiz. It was a fun evening and we raised over £400 for our funds. With some of the money we'll be buying a new rope swing and some seating for the garden plus some more resources to support our pre-phonics 'Super Sounds' programme and some area divider screens for the inside space. We hope to repeat the event next year so do join us if you'd like to even if your children have moved on from Little Fishes!



Summer Term News

So what have we been doing this half term? As usual there has been plenty to keep the children busy. We've recently had a focus on looking after our teeth with the children brushing a giant set of teeth and laminated mouths with bicarbonate of soda and flossing the Duplo teeth with wool to remove the playdough 'plaque'.



Brush Teeth!

NHS dental care for children is of course free and their advice is to take them to the dentist when their first milk teeth appear. This is so they become familiar with the environment and get to know the dentist. The dentist can also advise on how to prevent decay and identify any oral health problems at an early stage. Just opening up the child's mouth for the dentist to take a look at is useful practice for the future.

We've also been playing some new games such as 'Fox and Rabbits' which involves a 'fox' chasing the 'rabbits' and trying to catch one of their scarf tails! Some of the children have also done some cooking in the form of muffin pizzas and some scent making using rose petals.

We mustn't of course forget our sports day either! The children took part in hunts for natural objects and hidden shapes then participated well in the various races which ranged from the water relay to the dressing up race. Parents joined in an egg and spoon relay race with enthusiasm and proved themselves to be extremely competitive! It was great to have some of the children's siblings join us and they too had their own race.



What is 30 hours Funded Childcare?

*** Eligibility code applications or renewals for the Autumn Term 2023 must be made by August 31st.**

Most working parents of three and four year olds are eligible for an extra 15 hours of funded childcare a week, term time. Added to your current universal entitlement of 15 hours Funded Early Education for three and four year olds, this means that your entitlement will increase to a total of 30 hours a week, term time (or 1140 hours over a year). We are registered for 30 hours funded childcare term time and offer up to 24.75 hours. If you wish to claim all 30 hours some parents arrange for a childminder to cover the extra time.

If you think you might be eligible apply through the government's Childcare Choices website. There's 30 Hours Eligibility Guidance to help you understand whether you will qualify. If your application is successful, you'll get given an 11 digit eligibility code which you must then give us so that we can check your eligibility. **A child can only take up their extended hours from the term following the date of issue of their 30 hour code.**

Free Online Guides for Parents and Carers Understanding Your Baby / Child / Teenager

Free online guides are available for families living in Surrey with top tips from childcare, education and NHS health experts.

The following guides are available:

- Understanding your pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby
- Understanding your baby
- Understanding your child
- Understanding your child's feelings
- Understanding your child's mental health and well-being
- Understanding your teenager's brain
- Understanding the impact of the pandemic on your teenager
- Understanding your brain (for teenagers only)
- Understanding your feelings (for teenagers only)
- Understanding your child with additional needs
- Understanding your relationships

To gain access use the code 'ACORN' on the [Children and Family Health Surrey](#) website.

Activities for Children at Wisley



There's some great activities for children 3 years + at the RHS garden at Wisley this summer from insect handling to cookery to nature workshops. There's even more for older children. For further details and booking visit the [Wisley website](#).

Keeping Under Fives Safe Online

Advice and top tips for parents and carers for keeping young children safe online.

Children of all ages enjoy using technology. We now see young children going online to play games, talk to family, watch videos and even learn to use voice enabled tech like Alexa and Siri to find out about their world.



Access the advice via the [Childnet website](#)



A Final Few Messages from Sue!

Firstly two of our staff members, Laurence and Oscar are moving on to further develop their careers. We thank them both for their contributions over their time with us. Laurence was originally a parent at Little Fishes who then became a volunteer before being employed as a member of staff. Recently she has had responsibility for planning the garden space introducing some new activities for the children which they have enjoyed.

Oscar has been a breath of fresh air in the setting and it's been great to have a young male role model for the children, who've particularly loved that he could identify with their interest in super heroes! We wish Laurence and Oscar every success for the future; we will miss them both.

Secondly many of you will already have met our new deputy manager Paulette who will be joining Little Fishes in September. It's been lovely that she has been able to work alongside us for a few days to 'get a feel' for the way we work and to get to know staff and the returning children before she officially begins. We know that she will be a real asset to the setting.

And speaking of real assets finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish Deborah every success in her role as Manager. Deborah is passionate about working with young children as I'm sure you are aware and I know that I am leaving Little Fishes in safe hands. Under her leadership I am in no doubt that it will continue to flourish.

The staff at Little Fishes wish all families a lovely summer and look forward to seeing the returning children in September. For those moving to another setting we'll be praying that they settle quickly and that they enjoy this next phase of their educational journey.

