



Pathways Childcare Centre
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www.pathwayschildcare.co.uk

Newsletter March 2017

Dear parents/Carers

Fundraising

Our next fundraising event is Red Nose Day on Friday 24th March, we ask that children come dressed in red for the day and bring a small donation for the occasion.

Don't forget about our shop that we open for special occasions, children can purchase gifts for a small donation and wrap these up. We are currently open for Mothers day.

Please, please do all you can in helping us to fundraise, all money raised goes back into the nursery to enhance the children's learning and make being at Pathways a fun place to learn.

Policies

The safeguarding policy has been updated to include children/learners who are late or go missing from education. This will result in Pathways checking up on children who are absent without reason, so please call and let us know. Children abusing their peers and we have added more information into the section about preventing extremism and radicalisation. Please ask to see the policy if you wish alternatively you can now find this policy on our website www.pathwayschildcare.co.uk

Staff Training and Development

This has been a very busy half term for us at Pathways, we continue with our Excellence Through Reflection course and our Britannia Teaching help, which has resulted in the change of our planning and focusing more on continuous provision and the children's interests, making the most of learning in the moment and developing those next steps to enhance learning.

Leanne and Ann have now completed Level 2 in Safeguarding so are more knowledgeable in dealing with any concerns in this area.

Also lots of little courses in helping us to provide better experiences for the children. These include munching on maths, 2 year review, let's get communicating, from scribbles to scribe, developing your team, using creativity to enrich your environment, characteristics of effective learning, 30 hour funding, closing the gap, making maths count in the outdoors, EYPP maximise and evidence impact, making phonics fun and fun places and play spaces outdoors.

We look at the continuing professional development of staff very highly at Pathways and try to access what we can and what we think will benefit the nursery and the children. All courses attended have a training log filled in with what we are going to bring to the nursery and the impact

this has on the children. Please remember all courses are at cost so we are buying into your children's future here at Pathways. Let a member of staff know if you think we can do more in a particular area in the nursery, we always welcome parent's comments.

Holidays

Please find attached next half terms activities, please book your child in early.

News

A big development over this year will be the introduction to the new 30 hour funded childcare, which comes into place from September. Please read the following information carefully:

- You need to be earning on average the weekly equivalent of 16 hours at the national minimum/living wage rate
- In couples both parents have to be earning above the required rate
- There is a maximum earning limit of £100,00 per year
- The maximum hours per funding in a day is 10 hours
- This can be split between two providers
- Parents have to register with the HMRC and keep this updated in order to retrieve the additional 15 hours.

We will send out an information leaflet to the children who this will affect but in the meantime please speak to a member of staff if you want any more information on this, or log on to the Staffordshire website to find out more.

If your child is not at school and will not be attending Pathways can you let us know, there has been a few occasions where staff are chasing children who are not actually at school and this then has an impact on the care we need to be providing at this time. May we also remind you that once you have booked your sessions with us that these are all payable and we cannot change/swap days for others. Any extra days you require will be added on your bill. The after-school is getting busy on some days and we are nearly running at full capacity.

If any parent/carer would like to come into Pathways to share any skills, knowledge or interests into our setting please speak to Becci or Laura. A simple example, a reader of the week to read a story to the children.

Do not forget you can add achievements, pictures and share learning with your child's keyworker to input into their learning folder.

We welcome Kathryn back this term after her maternity leave, I'm sure along with myself you all wish her well in her return to work. Kathryn has decided to return part time so she is able to spend valuable time with her daughter Arabella.

Important Dates

Wednesday 22nd March - Mothers day afternoon 1.00-3.00

Friday 24th March - Red Nose Day - come dressed in red

Friday 31st March - Funding ends

Friday 7th April - Funding ends for those who chose this option

Monday 10th - Friday 21st April - Easter Holidays

Friday 14th and Monday 17th April - Closed for bank holidays

Monday 24th April - Funding begins