



New term at Bents Green pre-school

Sept 2020

On behalf of pre-school committee and staff, it is fantastic to be welcoming parents and children back next week. For returning parents, pre-school will look and feel like the 'new normal' that we established successfully at the end of last term. For new parents, a separate email has been sent from Stella that runs through the key things to be aware of to help your settling-in period run smoothly. In all cases, the hard work of the staff means that we continue to provide a warm, nurturing environment which your children will continue to flourish.

Hours and extended hours

The core pre-school sessions will continue as last year - Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.15am to 12.15pm; Monday and Thursday 9.15 to 2.45pm. As part of being COVID safe, doors open at 9:00am to reduce the likelihood of a queue forming.

In addition, for the new term I am delighted to be able to offer **an early start and lunch club** for those parents wanting more flexible hours. This is something that we had hoped to offer last summer term, before COVID intervened, and is in response to parental demand identified at that time.

As part of efforts to make pre-school financially sustainable we will have to charge for these additional sessions. FEL (funded early learning) and EFE (extended funded entitlement) hours cannot be used for these new sessions – they are offered as extras to our core offer. The committee have kept these

charges to a minimum, and we have ensured they compare favourably with charges made by other providers in the area. The details are as follows:

Early Start	8:30am-9:15am	£5 per child	Monday
Lunch Club (children to bring packed lunch)	12:15pm-1:15pm	£5 per child	Monday

Children may be dropped off after 8:30am in the early start but to maintain staff ratios we will need to charge for the full session in every case.

The current sessions provided as our core offer remain the same and we are very happy for parents to not take up the new sessions. However, they are in place should you need to do so on a regular or ad-hoc basis. Please contact Michèle or Stella to book the new sessions, or if you require more information.

Note that we are currently unable to offer the late pick-up that we had proposed at Easter due to the time needed for enhanced cleaning. We will continue to review this and update you if the situation changes.

Attending more than one setting

Current government guidance says that, where possible, parents should be encouraged to use only one early years setting.

Pre-school committee feel that this is a personal choice that will reflect your own circumstances. Therefore, while drawing your attention to this government advice, we will continue to accept children who are attending more than one setting where the parents are comfortable with that decision.

Stella has been in contact with some of the other providers that the children will be attending as well as pre-school, and will continue to communicate with these settings on a regular basis. Please do not hesitate to contact her if you have any questions or worries about this.

Face coverings

Can I ask that parents and carers wear face coverings when using the corridor to access pre-school and other communal areas of the building. This is a requirement of the church. Note that in line with government guidance, pre-

school staff will not be wearing face coverings.

Snack Contribution

Pre-school is a small charity, and remaining financially sustainable is a constant challenge - especially in current times. Traditionally, we have asked for parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of us providing a healthy daily snack. This year we are suggesting a contribution of £20 per child per term. Please do not feel pressured to contribute if you cannot afford to - all children will receive the same snack. You can contribute by cash, by simply putting it in an envelope and passing to a member of staff at the start of term, or alternatively by bank transfer to account number 01119591 sort code: 54-41-47, putting SNACK and your child's surname as the reference. All and any money paid is gratefully received.

As ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch about anything raised here, or any other issue.

Best wishes

Andrew Mellon

Chair of Bents Green Pre School Committee

You are receiving this email as you have a child who attends Bents Green Pre-School. If you do not wish to receive emails relating to pre-school in the future, please unsubscribe using the link in the footer below.

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