



Newsletter December 2024

Happy Christmas!

We are getting very Christmassy at Little Sunbeams. We would like to wish all of our Children and Parents/Carers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new year.

We also say hello to one new Little Sunbeam Lacey-May, we hope she thoroughly enjoys her learning journey with us.

Sadly we also say goodbye to Sarah who will be leaving the team at Christmas to start a new job. We will miss her loads but wish her well for the future. We will say hello to Charlene in January who will be joining the team.

Car seats

A reminder that Children **must** normally use a child car seat until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first. You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight. A link to more information can be found [here](#)

Please also remember to remove your child's coat before travelling in the car. A child's harness can appear tight with a winter coat on, however this extra bulk leaves the straps too loose and thus ineffective in a car crash when the coat compresses. A pre heated car, blanket or a coat put on backwards over the harness is a safer option.

Last session of the Year and our Christmas Event

A reminder that our last full session of the year is on Thursday 19th December and that on the morning of Friday 20th December (10am to 12noon) we will be holding a 'Christmas Event' for children to attend with their parents/carers. This is not a normal Preschool Session and we will be closed for the Christmas break after this. A letter containing more information has been sent home. Please remember to bring some pennies for our 'stalls' and refreshments. Donations for cakes/biscuits are welcome on the morning of the event.

Book Bags

Your child would have been given a free book bag on their first day. Please remember to send this in with them every day they attend so we can send home important update letters, art work and weekly reading books. If you have mislaid your child's yellow bag replacements can be purchased at a price of £4

Home is where the start is . Please find attached a poster for 'Home is where the start is, an online family festival of fun and learning from the Early Years Alliance on Thursday 13th February to Saturday 15th February. To book your place scan the QR code in the poster

Our Committee

Following on from our recent AGM we are pleased to confirm our committee members remain as before:

Scott Turnbull – Chairperson

Katie Collins-Hardman Co-Chairperson

Jill Everdell – Treasurer

Amanda Hart – Secretary

Lyn Donnelly - Manager

Our next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th February at 7pm in our preschool room, all parents are welcome to attend. This is your opportunity to find out more about the running of the preschool.

Starting School September 2025

If your child was born between 1 Sept 2020 and 31 Aug 2021 they are due to start year R in September 2024. **Applications opened on 1st November 2024** and are made through <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning>. **Applications close 15th January 2025.**

Reminder for parents claiming '30 hours childcare' in the Spring 2025 term All parents who are working, have a 3 or 4 year old and want to claim funded extended hours (30 hours childcare), **must** make sure they have applied to [HMRC](https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account) no later than 31 December 2024. All parents with a 30 hours code need to make sure their details are up to date. They must do this every three months: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account>.

All new codes must be verified by preschool by 31st December 2024, if you think you are eligible and wish to take up this funding please speak to a member of staff.

Family Photo album

We have a photo album in preschool holding photos of the children with their families. This is a real talking point for the children and can also be a comfort when they need to see photos of their loved ones. Could you please create an observation on your child's Tapestry Journal and attach a recent photo.(Please include in the observation the names of all the family members shown.) We will then print this out. Thank you

Policies

Our policies are regularly reviewed and updated. Please go to our website to read the current policies.

Waypoint Hub

The Waypoint Hub provides food parcels and support to those who need it. It is situated in the same building as the preschool. It is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays 9am to 12 noon. Services offered include:

Food Parcels – For anyone who is struggling and needs help with food, either as a one off or to help you get through a difficult period

More 4 Less – For a £5 donation you can get at least £15 worth of items (Fresh, Frozen, Tinned, Packets, Household and Toiletries)

Citizens Advice Outreach – Drop in to get advice Tuesdays 10.00 to 12 noon

DON'T STRUGGLE ALONE – HELP IS AVAILABLE

Dates for your diary

Last Session of the Year – Thursday 19th December

Christmas Event – Friday 20th December For all Children and their families to attend – No Usual sessions

Christmas Holiday – Friday 20th December – Friday 3rd January 2025 (No Preschool)

Committee Meeting – Tuesday 11th February 2025 – 7 to 8pm

Spring Half Term Holiday – Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025 (No Preschool)

Easter Holiday – Monday 7th to Monday 21st April 2025(No Preschool)

May Day – Monday 5th May 2025 (No Preschool)

Summer Half Term Holiday – Monday 26th – Friday 30th May (No Preschool)

Last Day of Academic Year – Thursday 17th July at 12 noon (Please note Preschool will close early)

Leavers Party Friday 18th July TBC (This is only for children leaving us to go to Year R in September)