**Term Dates 2020- 2021**

Term 1: 3rd Sep-Thursday 22nd October

Term 2: Monday 2nd Nov – Thursday 17th Dec

**Term 3: Tuesday 5th Jan – 12th Feb 2021**

Term 4: Mon 22nd Feb – Thursday 1st April

Term 5: Tuesday 20th April – Friday 28th May

Term 6: Monday 7th June – Wednesday 21st July

**Newsletter February 2021**

**Term Activities Term 3 Lupins Class**

Week 1: Winter - Freya

Week 2: Winter - Thea

Week 3: Health and Self Care - Cally

Week 4: Valentines - Rebecca

Week 5: Valentines - Freya

Week 6: Chinese - Shannon

**Small group activities Lupins Class**

Each day a staff member takes a small group of children to a quiet area to participate in small group activities. This enhances the children’s individual skills. For example: turn taking, sharing, next steps, listening and development in all areas across the early year’s foundation stage.

Week 1: Next Steps – Thea

Week 2: Next Steps – Cally

Week 3: Next Steps - Rebecca

Week 4: Next Steps – Shannon

Week 5: Next Steps – Freya

Week 6: Next Steps – Mixed!

**AGM**

We will be holding our AGM on Monday 8th February @ 11.00 by Zoom. We are looking for new members to join the committee as Trustees of the charity. All trustees are responsible for the operation of the charity.

Individual trustees work together as voluntary management committee and should be a team carrying out the responsibilities set out in the constitution. We are looking for a **secretary and ordinary members**

If you would like to join the meeting please email Carole for joining instructions.

**Tax-Free Childcare**

**For** **Working families**, including the self-employed, **in the UK** Earning **under £100K** and **at** **least £139** per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage) each,who **are not** receiving Tax Credits, Universal Credit or Childcare Vouchers. With children aged 0-11 (or 0-16 if disabled)For every £8 you pay into online account, the government will add an extra £2, **up to £2,000** **per child per year.**If your working pattern and/or incomehaschanged because of coronavirus (COVID-19); before you apply or reconfirm, please read [how the changes may affect your eligibility.](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-can-get-tax-free-childcare-and-30-hours-free-childcare-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

**https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/Funded childcare 15 Hours Free Childcare/ 30 Hours Free Childcare** Funded childcare for 3 and 4-year-old children. For more information, please go on: **www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/**

**Term Activities Term 3 Bluebells Class**

Week 1: Winter - Sara

Week 2: Winter - Sara

Week 3: Owl Babies - Carolyn

Week 4: Dinosaurs - Caroline

Week 5: Valentines – Sara, Carolyn & Caroline

Week 6: Chinese – Sara, Carolyn & Caroline

**Small group activities Bluebells Class**

Week 1: Next Steps – Sara

Week 2: Next Steps – Carolyn

Week 3: Next Steps - Caroline

Week 4: Next Steps – Sara

Week 5: Next Steps – Carolyn

Week 6: Next Steps – Caroline

**COVID – 19 Update**

Please wear a face covering on drop off and pick up. This is to ensure the safety of the staff and yourselves. There will be occasions when staff need to speak to parents privately, so by wearing a face mask will help to reduce the risks.

Please do not enter the small gated area unless **absolutely necessary**. We do understand that some children are reluctant to be handed over and sometimes may need to be carried to a staff member

We really appreciate you forming an orderly queue to ensure the smooth transition for the children to enter the setting. Staff are currently signing the children in and supporting them with their coats, hats, gloves & bags. This can take a few minutes for each child. We currently have 3 staff on welcome to speed things up! We are continuing with strict hygiene regimes of hand washing, using tissues; Catch it, Bin it, Kill it. We are also continuing to sterilise, wipe down any equipment and resources that have been used daily.

**Weather**

Please ensure that your child is suitably dressed for the colder weather. The classrooms are lovely and warm, but as previously mentioned we will be going out for daily walks and exercise.

Please label all items of outdoor clothing.

**Garden update**

Unfortunately, we are no further forward to any updates on the garden being fully accessible at this present time, however recently we have had a couple of companies in to measure up and quote to improve the garden with new wooden structures and a safe surface for the children to play on.

The garden is extremely muddy, so we are going on daily walks for exercise and fresh air! We are spending lots of time exploring the local areas and having great fun at the outdoor weather pitch, we are also going to the park and trim trail.

**Forest School**

The Regiment has kindly agreed for playgroup to use an area opposite the pre-school for Forest School. Rebecca has offered to complete some training to facilitate the process of guiding and instructing other staff members and more importantly the children. This will provide the children with an outdoor model which the children can visit this natural space to learn personal skills, social skills and wildlife. Forest school helps children grow in confidence as a result of freedom, time and space they are given in their learning.

**Welcome to the new children who have recently joined us**

Síofra, Connie, Sheeyana, Harley & Ellie-May

**Staff News**

We have welcomed Kelly to our team. Kelly was interviewed in March 2020, but unfortunately due to COVID-19 we did not go ahead with recruiting her at such uncertain times.