



## The White House Nursery Alfreton Parent Newsletter – Summer 2020



### Term Dates

Term time children return to nursery on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September after the summer break.

Their last day at nursery will be Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and children will return on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

The last day of nursery before Christmas will be Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, and children will return on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### Funding Reminder

Please can parents whose children come into funding in January 2021 you will need to apply for the 30-hour code for funding before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. If you do not apply for the 30-hour code, you will not be able to claim the 30-hour funding in January 2021. Please ask Paula or Shelby if you need any advice or information regarding funding.

### Contracts and Fees

Our annual fee increase will be effective as of September 2020. We have new price lists and academic calendars for September 2020 to September 2021. If you would like a copy of your calendar please ask a member of staff when collecting/dropping off your child, a printed copy can be given or you can have it emailed to you.

### Goodbye and good luck to our school leavers!

It was delightful to have a little graduation party in a safe and sensible way, giving the current circumstances. Please let pre-school staff know if you need anything to help with your child's transition to school. It has been a pleasure watching the



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children grow and we will miss them very much. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the pre-school children and their families all the best with starting big school. We would also like to take the time to thank the families for their lovely words, compliments, gifts, and praises. We thank you very much!!

### Children returning to nursery

Thank you to all our families for your support and understanding as we return to nursery following the COVID-19 Lockdown period. The children are settling back to nursery extremely well and the positive changes in children during the break is great to see. With the furlough scheme still in place we are making every effort to put children with their key worker where possible.

### The ALL NEW Parent Zone: Important Info

We are pleased to tell you that Parent Zone has had a major overhaul and a brand-new version of the app has been released! The new and improved Parent Zone app has a completely new design and takes advantage of lots of your phone's native features - like fingerprint or face ID login pinch and zoom on photos. To download the new app head to your app store and search for 'Parent Zone'. Once downloaded, you can access the new app with your existing login details. The old Parent Zone app will be switched off and removed from app stores on 30<sup>th</sup> August, so please ensure you download the new app soon!



Keep a look out on our website and social media channels for information on how to get the most out of your Parent Zone app.

### Malleable Activities

As you know here at the White House Nursery, we love nothing more than to provide wonderful opportunities for children to experiment, explore and develop through messy, malleable 'hands on' activities. We delight in providing a range of different materials and resources which include sand, water, play dough, cornflour to name but a few. We know how much the children gain from these materials and activities and how much they miss being able to access these and would love to be able to do so again soon. Our practitioners also miss these and ask when they can have back out in their rooms. However, in line with Government Guidance and Health and Safety good practice during the COVID-19 pandemic we removed all these resources and opportunities to adhere to guidance and ensure the health and safety of all our children and staff. We continue to review and evaluate the guidance and complete risk assessments to consider when it is safe to reinstate these opportunities. Unfortunately, having looked at options and logistics we feel in



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order to maintain our high standards for infection control, safeguarding and wellbeing of all the children and staff it is still too early to reintroduce these opportunities. To do so would risk the stringent good practice we have in place which has kept our children and staff well and our nurseries open and functioning. We understand this is disappointing but want to ensure we do everything we can to keep our nursery environments COVID free. Please be reassured we will continue to assess this and reinstate as and when we feel it is safe to do so. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding during these difficult times.

### Activities at home

We understand how precious this time is with your little ones at home, so we would like to share some information about activities you may wish to try at home.

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Hungry little minds are a campaign based around learning through play. There are some amazing resources on the website that are all age and stage appropriate for your little ones. Don't forget to share your experiences with us via the Parent Zone app.

### Dropping off and collecting your child from nursery

Thank you to all of our parents for your patience and cooperation since putting our new COVID-19 policies and procedures in place. Particularly when dropping off and collecting your child and the handover discussion. If you do require a more in depth or private conversation, please call us on the main nursery number. However, this operation is working very well and the children are settling into the rooms, making them more independent especially the pre-school children.

### General Reminders

Sun Cream - Please remember to bring your child/ren's sun cream into nursery. Due to COVID-19 we are not currently using nursery sun-cream. Please can you ensure this is clearly labelled and kept in your child's nursery bag.

Can we ask that you clearly mark your children's clothes? Some items of clothes are very popular and there can be quite a few of the same coats, jumpers etc and very difficult to recognise whose is whose.

Extra sessions and changes to your child's booking - A polite reminder that extra sessions are charged on the following months invoice. At the moment we are unable to offer swap sessions.



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Payment and fees – Thank you to everyone for understanding that we are not accepting cash payments now. Please continue to ring nursery or pay using the Parent Zone app to ensure your child's invoice is paid in full on receipt of your invoice.

Items in bags – We would like to politely ask parents to check the contents of their children's bags before bringing them into nursery. Please remove any medication, creams, food items, personal or hazardous items. If your child requires medicine or cream at nursery, please label it clearly and hand it in at the office or a staff member at the door to be stored safely until needed.

### Staffing Congratulations

Stacy in our baby room got married on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August, a huge congratulation to her and Adrian! Her name is now Stacy Glover.

During lockdown Danielle Froggatt in the baby room gave birth to a little girl called Freya, congratulations!

We would also like to welcome back Annie from maternity leave. Annie will now be working three days a week – Monday Tuesday & Wednesday in our Baby room.

Charlotte our cook, went to support out Borrowash nursery and is now working there on a permanent basis. We would like to wish her all the best and thank her for all her hard work during her time with us at Alfreton.

Danielle S, who supported us with cooking in Charlottes absence, has now been offered the position of cook on a permanent basis at Alfreton and we welcome her to her new job role.

Kelly from pre-school has made the difficult decision to step down from her senior role. Kelly will now be supporting the children in our Toddler room when she returns to nursery.

The position of pre-school senior will be advertised internally, and we will keep you up to date with any staff changes.

Louise Rawson in toddler room, who works term-time, will be moving to our pre-school room when she returns in September.

We would like to wish Hannah from toddler room a speedy recovery as she has now gone into hospital for her operation and will be away from nursery for around 8 weeks. During this time Katherine will be stepping in to cover as senior.



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Lucy and Chloe have both moved to support two of our other nursey sites during their busy time.

Finally, many thanks to all our children and families, for all your support, consideration, and patience through what has been a very difficult few months.

Kind Regards Paula and the nursery staff team.