



The White House Kids Club  
Parent Newsletter – March 2021

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their continued support and understanding throughout these challenging times. We understand that the weather is sometimes unpredictable and there may be a slight wait when getting children into and out of the building during drop off and collection times. Thank you for your patience.

**GENERAL PARENT MEMOS**

- Please ensure your child is well enough to be at nursery & Kids Club. We understand that as the weather is changing colds are more common, however when your child is ill they may need to be at home to avoid spreading illness to other children
- Please ensure no medication is stored in children's bags. Children can access their own belongings whilst at nursery & Kids Club and this is to ensure we are keeping all children safe. If a child does require medication whilst at nursery this needs to be handed over to the staff member on arrival and the required forms to be filled out.
- Please discourage children from bringing toys in from home, unless this is used as a comforter.
- Nursery Parents – Please ensure that your child has a nursery bag with enough spare clothes in for the day and that they are suitable for the changes in weather. Please also ensure and that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. We do have some nursery clothes for emergencies, but these are also running low. If you have any nursery clothes at home, please can you return them.
- We appreciate some of our parents may be exempt from wearing a face covering, so please ensure you are maintaining social distancing at all times when dropping off and collecting children.
- It is imperative that you let us know if any of your emergency details change. This includes your secure passwords, caregiver names, home address, telephone numbers and email addresses. This information must be up to date at all times in the event of an emergency and we need to contact you.



**What to pack in your nursery bag...**



- ☒ A supply of wipes *(All children)*
- ☒ A supply of nappies
- ☒ Changes of clean clothes
- ☒ Nappy Cream
- ☒ Child's Medication  
*(To be handed over to unit staff and documents signed)*
- ☒ Seasonal items  
*(Wellies, hat, gloves, coat or snow suit, sun hat)*
- ☒ Spare underwear
- ☒ Comforter *(If applicable)*

*Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name to avoid any mix ups!*



**What NOT to pack in your nursery bag...**



- ☒ Adults Medication
- ☒ Snacks/ Sweets
- ☒ Drinks
- ☒ Nappy Sacks
- ☒ Plastic Bags
- ☒ Cigarettes
- ☒ Money



Some of these items could be a health and safety risk for children, please ensure they are not left in nursery bags.  
Thank you.

**Safeguarding:** Can we please ask that when you are driving in or out of the car park you keep your speed to a minimum and drive with caution.

We ask all parents and carers to inform us if and when your child has had an injury at home, no matter how small it may seem. You will need to complete a pre-existing injury form on drop off with the details of the injury, so the staff are aware.

**Term Dates:** Bank Holidays = Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April & Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May

**Invoicing and Payments:** Thank you to the parents who continually pay their invoices on time. Can we please remind parents that payment of your invoice is due upon receipt and must be paid in full by your chosen method.

If you would like to sign up to the Direct Debit system please call the office to arrange this.

If you pay or part pay via tax free childcare vouchers it is up to you to ensure that this is setup correctly and on time for your invoice to be paid in full.

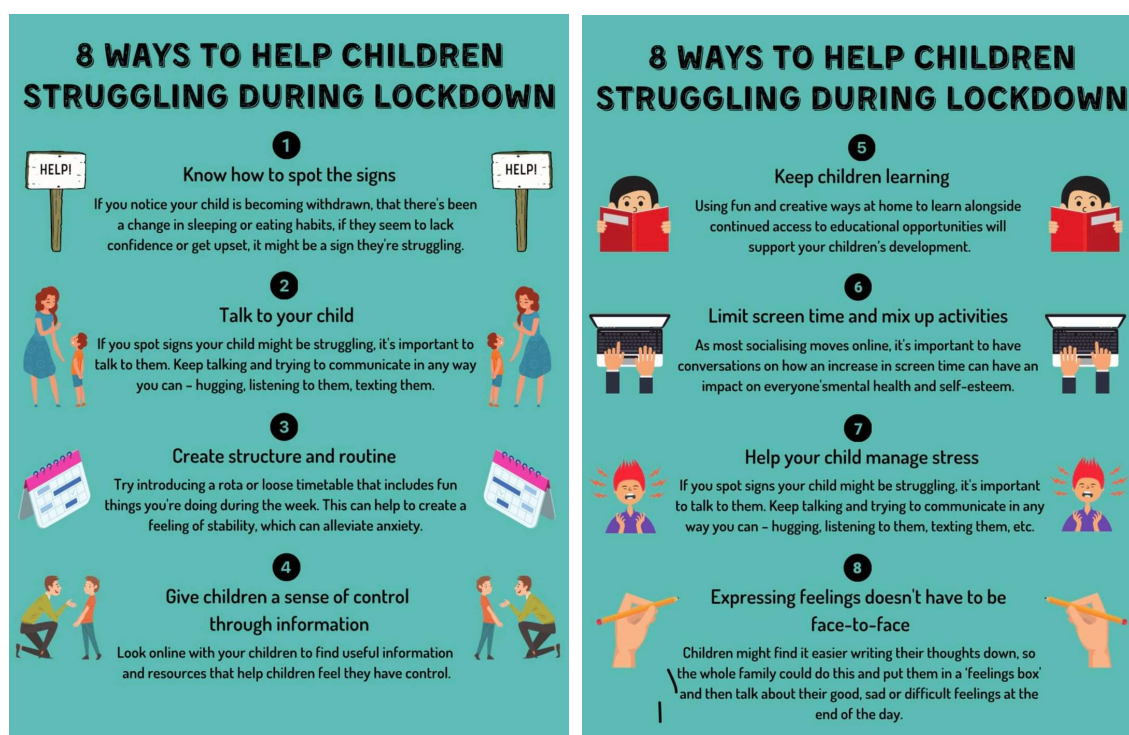
You must keep up with your childcare fees. Failure to do so may result in further late payment charges, and if this continues we may be forced to terminate your child's place and pass your account on to our debt recovery agency which will again incur further charges to you.

**National Lockdown:** As this is our third National Lockdown since the pandemic started in March 2020, and nearly a year on many of us are facing many difficulties, challenges and anxieties from this situation.

At present, the majority of our children and families are accessing the nursery but some families are deciding to keep their children at home. Whatever your individual circumstances may be, if you require further help and support with your child's learning and development at home please let us know.

Our staff continue to update and communicate with parents via the Parent Zone app to inform you of what your child will be learning and experiencing at nursery along with ideas and activities you can do at home. We love to see what you have been busy doing at home so please continue to send us photos, videos and observations of your child to support what we do at nursery.

We have included some resources on our website which we hope will be useful in supporting you and your child during this time. Please visit [www.thewhitehousenursery.co.uk/blog](http://www.thewhitehousenursery.co.uk/blog)



## NURSERY SPECIFIC MEMOS

### School Readiness – When will my child write their name?

This is one of the most common questions we are asked. The answer is that when they are physically ready to do so, and we advise that we do push the children to write their name until they start taking an interest.

### Pointers for Supporting Handwriting:

#### Are they ready?

It is not unusual to hear children who are taking part in mark-making activities complaining that they can't/do not want to do it. This is because the muscles have not developed enough to support gripping the pencil or crayon. As a result, this is a painful experience, and the brain decides to do as little as possible.

The wrist bones in girls are usually fully developed by age four years five months whereas in boys it is generally not until five years six months.

We therefore must ensure that children who are not physically ready to write are provided with lots of opportunities to strengthen their shoulders, elbows, wrists and hands for example, painting with mops, decorator brushes and rollers, air writing with wands and light sabres, laying on the floor, climbing and mark making underneath tables.

The development of hand dominance:

Children 'may be beginning to show a preference' at 22- 36 months; children should be reaching and holding more with one hand. A child 'shows a preference' at 40 - 60 months; hand dominance should be pretty firmly established by 5½ years of age.

**Warning:** Children may become frustrated or restless as a result of not being able to master fine motor movement these children require more time and space to foster gross motor movement in developing the strength in their shoulders, elbows, wrists and hands.

When children start to show an interest in writing their name it is important that **adults should not guide the hands of children** that are writing. If they cannot do it on their own, they are not ready to do it and we do not encourage children writing over dots as this is a very different movement to writing fluently.

### Supporting Awareness

Let your child watch as you write to see how letters are formed

Write your child's name and allow them to copy the letters (it does not matter if these marks do not look like letters to begin with)

If they make a picture scribe what the child tells you about the picture so they understand that those letters have a purpose

Write shopping lists together

Point out writing in the environment for example signs giving messages

Children need to practice making vertical lines and circles before forming letter shapes

### Developing Core Strength

Children also need to develop core strength to be able to sit on a chair at a table to be able to write. Developing core strength is important at all ages and you can provide many opportunities including:

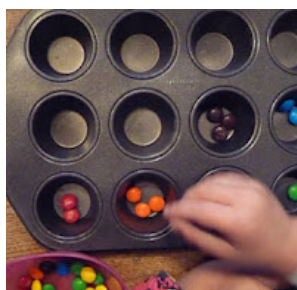
- Tummy time – such reading books, or mark making on the floor
- Crawling activities – through tunnels
- Kneeling – completing jigsaws on the floor
- Jumping and hopping
- Climbing – on ladders and over rocks
- Hanging – from monkey bars
- Rolling – up and down hills
- Balancing – on beams or walking along logs

Have fun with your child building and developing their gross motor and fine motor strength and skills with some of the activities below...

Supporting Handwriting with lots of large physical movement activities:



Fine motor activities to support the development of hand and fingers:



**Dates For Your Diary (Nursery Children):** Please look out for further information on upcoming events via Parent Zone.

World Book Day Celebrations – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Mother's Day Celebrations – w/c 8<sup>th</sup> March – Children will have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities in celebration of Mother's Day.

Easter Activities – w/c 29<sup>th</sup> March – Children will have the opportunity to take part in a range of Easter activities including lots of arts and crafts!

**School Transitions:** If your child is leaving us to start school in September 2021 please can you inform us of your child's school place as soon as you know.

**Nursery Attendance:** If your child will not be attending nursery for any reason on any given day, please ensure you let us know so that we can take them off the register. This can be done by phone call or a message to your child's key worker via Parent Zone.

**Reconfirm Your 30 Hours and Tax Free Childcare Codes:** Please remember to reconfirm your funding codes if you receive 30 hours funding or Tax Free childcare payments. If you allow the code to expire you may not receive your full entitlement.

### OUT OF SCHOOL SPECIFIC MEMOS

**After School Collections:** If your plans change and your child no longer needs collecting from school on a day that they normally would, please ensure you let us know in time for school finishing. For example if a child is not attending school for any reason (holiday or illness) or if they are going home with a friend.

**Easter Holiday Club:** We are very excited to be welcoming children back to holiday club this easter! Look out on our website and Facebook page for information as our booking forms will be available very soon. Places will be limited (in line with current COVID-19 government advice) so be sure to book your sessions early to avoid disappointment.

**Parent Zone:** If your child attends our out of school provision please contact us to register your Parent Zone account! We have now started to use the Parent Zone app with our Out Of School parents as well as the nursery parents. For the older children it will only be used as a way to communicate with parents and a place to publish important information.