

September 2023 Newsletter

We hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and are looking forward to returning to nursery next week. We have had lots of fun with the children that have been attending nursery during the holiday period.

This newsletter contains some important information about the nursery and the new term so please read it carefully.

Nuts

Daisychains Nursery is a **NUT FREE ZONE**. Please do not send your child into nursery with any nuts or products that contain nuts, this includes products like Nutella, Pesto sauce etc.

If we discover any nuts or products that contain nuts in your child's lunchbox, they will be prevented from eating them.

We appreciate that nearly every product has a disclaimer stating that it may contain nuts but as long as the list of ingredients does not actually specify nuts these products will be fine.

Thank you for your assistance with this.



Healthy Lunches

Daisychains Nursery promotes healthy eating, and we request that packed lunches/teas reflect this. Therefore, we ask that no sweets, chocolates or fizzy drinks are included as part of your child's lunch.

We have included our leaflet on Age Appropriate Lunches with this newsletter and if you need some more inspiration the following website provides some ideas for health lunches: -

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Grapes and Plum Tomatoes

Grapes and plum tomatoes can pose a serious choking hazard to babies, toddlers and young children.

Foods such as these should always be cut **lengthwise** so they can pass more easily through smaller throats. Never slice widthwise because they will still be big enough to chock on. For really small babies you might want to cut them lengthwise into quarters.

This photograph shows you how to slice grapes so they are safe for your child to eat.

Please remember this if you are sending your child to nursery with grapes/plum tomatoes in their packed lunch.



Understanding Your Invoice/Consumables Fee

The September invoices have recently been sent out and you may have noticed an additional charge on them.

Consumables Fee

We have previously advised that with effect from September we would be charging a consumables fee of £1 for every morning and afternoon session. If your child attends all day you will be required to pay the consumables fee for both the morning and afternoon sessions.

The consumables fee covers things like, but not limited to:-

- Snack items - fruit, crackers, cheese, butter, biscuits etc
- Laundry items - washing tablets and softener so we can wash sheets and spare clothes
- Dishwasher tablets and washing up liquid - for ensuring that all cups/plates etc are clean
- Sterilising tablets - for babies bottles, dummies etc
- Suncream - we keep a supply of Factor 50 suncream in case children need to be topped up and haven't supplied their own
- Crafting items - paper, paints, crayons, pencils, card, glue etc
- First Aid Equipment - plasters, ice packs, eye wash, etc
- Baby wipes and nappy sacks - baby wipes sent in by parents are used for changing nappies but we keep a supply in case a child runs out and also for wiping hands when needed. Nappy sacks are required for the dirty nappies.
- Cleaning materials - disinfectant used to wiping tables and cleaning toys etc. We also use other cleaning materials to ensure that all areas of the nursery are kept clean and hygienic.
- Hand soap - although not used by the babies, it is used by toddlers and pre-school children and also by staff to ensure that hands are always clean.
- Occasional treats - for example ice poles. In the summer we keep a stock of ice poles in the freezer as a treat and to help keep children cool and hydrated.

The consumables fee is payable for all booked sessions even if your child does not attend, the only exception to this is pre booked holiday where we have been given the requested one month's notice.

The consumables fee is not covered by government funding.

Your Invoice

Any extra sessions or settling in sessions will be shown in the top section of the invoice.

This is followed by your child's normal booked sessions.

Please note that the session times are set and listed on the invoice as a full session, however, if it has been agreed for your child to attend a reduced period the amount charged will be reduced accordingly - refer to example 1 below.

Additional Charges

Towards the bottom of the invoice you will see any additional items that you being charged for, for example school meals and consumables.

School Meals are listed as Extra - School Meals - refer to example 2 below.

The consumables fee is listed as Meals (Breakfast/Lunch). Breakfast relates to the consumables fee for the 9 to 12 morning session and Lunch relates to the consumable fee for the 12 to 3 afternoon session - refer to example 3 below.

Example Invoices

Example 1 - charging for sessions

This child attended extra sessions on 27 July, 2 and 9 August. On the 27 July and the 9 August the child attended for the full morning session from 09:00 till 12:00 and was charged for the full 3 hours @ £6.50 per hour (total £19.50 per session).

On 2 August it was agreed that they could attend from 10:00 till 12:00, so although the invoice shows a full morning session of 09:00 - 12:00 the amount charged has been reduced to £13.00 (2 hours @ £6.50 per hour). Please note on your invoices and reduced sessions will not be shown in red ink, this has just been done on the example to highlight it.

Extra Session	Item Date	Item Description	Amount
	26/07/2023	Morning Session (09:00 - 12:00)	£19.50
	02/08/2023	Morning Session (09:00 - 12:00)	£13.00
	09/08/2023	Morning Session (09:00 - 12:00)	£19.50
Extra Session : Total			£52.00

Example 2 - charging for School Meals

Extra	Item Date	Item Description	Amount
	24/04/2023	School Meals	£2.50
	26/04/2023	School Meals	£2.50
	27/04/2023	School Meals	£2.50
	02/05/2023	School Meals	£2.50
	03/05/2023	School Meals	£2.50
	09/05/2023	School Meals	£2.50
	10/05/2023	School Meals	£2.50
Extra : Total			£17.50

Example 3 - charging for the consumables fee

Meals	Item Date	Item Description	Amount
	05/09/2023	Meals (Breakfast Lunch)	£2.00
	06/09/2023	Meals (Breakfast Lunch)	£2.00
	07/09/2023	Meals (Breakfast Lunch)	£2.00
	18/09/2023	Meals (Breakfast Lunch)	£2.00
Meals : Total			£8.00

Please check your invoice carefully and if you have any queries please telephone the office (01795 876473) or email accounts@daisychainsnursery.org.uk and Sandra will get back to you as soon as possible.

Changes to Parental Contract

We have updated our parental contract and would like to make you aware of the changes.

Holiday Discount Entitlement (Full Time Attendees)

Children attending on a full-time basis (51 weeks per year) are entitled to two weeks holiday per academic year at 50% off the normal fee rate.

Please note that this entitlement is calculated on a pro-rata basis and stops when your child receives government funding at the age of 2 or 3 years. Therefore, if your child starts nursery or receives government funding mid-way through the academic the holiday discount entitlement will be reduced accordingly.

If your child has not used all their holiday entitlement by the time their government funding starts the remaining allowance will be lost.

One month's notice is required, prior to your child's absence for the discount to be applied.

Deposit Refunds

Every child that starts at Daisychains Nursery in Blossom Room (baby room) is required to pay a conditionally refundable deposit equivalent to one month's fees.

Deposits are refunded once the child leaves the nursery subject to the minimum contract of 6 months.

Deposit refunds are processed at the beginning of the next 'big' term after your child leaves the nursery. You should expect to receive any refund towards the end of the first month of the new term. By 'big' term we are referring to 3 terms per academic year, starting in September, January and March/April (after Easter).

Drop Off and Pick Up Times

Daisychains Nursery works to strict staff to child ratios therefore it is essential that you drop off at or after the start of your child's booked session and that you pick up at or before the end of your child's booked session.

The nursery opens at 07:45am each morning Monday to Friday and we are unable to allow access to the nursery grounds before this due to limitations of our insurance.

If you arrive early to drop off your child, you are requested to wait outside the nursery gates until the start of your child's booked session even if the nursery is already open.

The nursery closes at 18:00hrs Monday to Thursday and at 17:00hrs on a Friday. Please be respectful of our staff and ensure that you arrive on time to collect your child.

If you arrive late to collect your child, you will be asked to sign a late form and persistent late collection may result in additional charges of £2.50 per minute as specified in the Parental Contract.

Breakfast Club

Please note that breakfast club finishes promptly at 8:30am. If your child requires breakfast at nursery please ensure they arrive no later than 08:25am, children arriving after this time may have to wait until snack time before we are able to provide them with something to eat.

Mobile Phones

Daisychains Nursery prohibits the use of mobiles phones within the nursery buildings, this is to safeguard children and staff.

When you collect your child from nursery, they will probably have lots to tell about their day, so we kindly request that you greet your child with a smile and not a mobile.



Term Dates

The new term starts on Monday 4 September but as this is a Staff Training Day the nursery will not be open for children until Tuesday 5 September.

The last day of term is Friday 20 October 2023.

Please note that St George's Primary School have a two week half-term in October so there will be **no school meals from Monday 16 October to Friday 27 October inclusive.**



Uniform

Daisychains Nursery does have a 'uniform' but it is not compulsory for children to wear it. T-shirts, jumpers and baseball caps with the Daisychains Logo on are available from Forsters in Sheerness.

We are currently in discussion with Handy Prints and hope that they will soon be able to supply uniform as well.

Your child's belongings

Please help us to look after your child's belongings by ensuring that everything is clearly named.

Easy2Name Labels supply a range of labels to suit every need. The labels are steriliser and dishwasher proof, and you can choose from stick on or iron on labels.

In addition, all orders placed using our unique organisation code will generate funds for the nursery. Our unique code is **FR-DAISYCHAINS-90.**



It is your responsibility to check that you have all your child's belongings at the end of the day.

Child Sickness

Daisychains Nursery follows the Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Other Childcare Settings which states that if a child has diarrhoea or vomiting, they need to stay away from nursery for 48 hours from the last episode. If your child has been sent home with sickness and/or diarrhoea, they will not be allowed to return to the nursery for at least 48 hours.

The Magic of Calpol

Calpol is not a cure for feeling poorly or having a cold, it just gives children a temporary pick me up much like cold and flu tablets do for adults. The child still has the illness it is just masked for a while.

Teething can be a cause of children not feeling themselves and there are things we can administer to help them such as teething gel/powder or other medicines specifically for teething. However, if they are very poorly with teething and require Calpol it is probably best they stay in the comfort of their own homes with cuddles from mummy or daddy.

Please be aware that if your child requires pain relief to get them through the day, they will be unable to attend nursery.

Free Childcare

We are aware that in the last budget the Chancellor announced the introduction of free childcare for 1- and 2-year-olds. We do not have any further information on this other than that which has been published in the press. As soon as the details have been finalised and passed to the nursery, we will send out the relevant information to parents.

At the moment the government funding remains as follows:-

Some children are eligible for 15 hours government funding from the age of 2. If you believe you may be eligible for funding for your 2 year old, you can apply online via the KCC website - <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/free-childcare#tab-1>



All 3- and 4-year-olds in England are eligible for free childcare up to a maximum of 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year from the **term after their 3rd birthday**. This funding is applied automatically.



In addition, some 3 and 4 year olds are eligible for extended funding of up to 30 hours per week for 38 weeks per year depending on parental circumstances (15 universal hours and up to 15 hours extended funding).

Applications for extended funding needs to be confirmed via HMRC and can be applied for via the following websites:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/free-childcare#tab-2>

<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

Daisychains Nursery will require your funding code (for 30hrs funding and/or Free For 2 funding), before the start of the term in which funding starts so please ensure you apply in plenty of time.

If you fail to apply by the appropriate deadline, the start date for your child's funding may be delayed.

Staff Changes

We are sorry to advise that the following staff have now left Daisychains Nursery to pursue different careers elsewhere, we hope you will join us in wishing them all the best for their future.

Lauren Homewood (Daisy Room), Jo Morton (Daisy Room), and Audric Perrin (Blossom Room)

We will also be saying goodbye to the following temporary staff that have been working for us over the summer months.

India Mackenzie (Buttercup and Daisy Room) and Lucie Munday (Buttercup and Daisy Room)

We are very excited to welcome the following new staff members.

Faye Roullier (Buttercup Room) and Sophie Catchpole (Daisy Room)

In addition some staff have changed rooms and/or roles as detailed below:

Katie Spokes - will now take over the role of Deputy Room Supervisor in Blossom Room

Gemma Clarke - moves from Buttercup Room to Blossom Room

Keely Williams - moves from Buttercup Room to Blossom Room

Gabrielle Morley - moves from Blossom Room to Buttercup Room

Kimberley Jackson - moves from Blossom Room to Daisy Room where she will be the Deputy Room Supervisor

Katie Durnford - moves from Buttercup Room to Daisy Room

Lianne Capaldi - will step down as Deputy Room Supervisor of Daisy Room and will become a flexible member of staff covering all rooms as needed.

Photographs of all staff members can be found on our website - www.daisychainsnursery.org.uk