



## PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE CLUBS NEWSLETTER

We cannot believe how fast this term is going already!

This term ends this Friday February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at our usual time of 3.15 pm and we

reopen on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, as the Monday is an inset day. The Easter holiday starts after we breakup on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 1.15 and reopen on Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, following the bank holiday. Inset days are set by North Hinksey School and a full academic year calendar is available on our website and North Hinksey School website.

**Staff News...** We are trying to recruit a replacement for Lea but as yet have not had any applicants!

We have temporarily recruited Daisy Warland to help with cleaning on one after school club. Daisy is currently studying A levels at Matthew Arnold and completed some work experience with us previously as well as some volunteering for her Duke of Edinburgh award. The children really like having new young people to play with and chat to, so they may tell you about Daisy especially if they attend After school Club on a Wednesday when we now have 15 children!

In March we will also have 2 young people coming from Matthew Arnold to complete a weeks work-experience placement.

**Numbers of Children...** We are experiencing many applications for sessions. So if you are thinking of changing sessions or increasing/ decreasing them please can you let me know as soon as possible! I will be looking to see if we can take any more children after February half term, to start after Easter and I imagine we will be completely at capacity then, especially if we don't manage to recruit anyone!

**Weather and Clothing...** Please, as always make sure your child comes to Preschool with appropriate clothing to our ever-changing weather! This has been a really challenging year so far!

**Listening and Attention...**We are working hard on getting the children to listen to us (and each other!) and pay attention.. these are extremely important skills that they will need in the coming months especially if they are starting school in September!

Interestingly we have been observing children (as always!) and lots of them do not know that we “listen using our ears” “smell using our noses” and “see using our eyes” so feel free to help your children to listen and pay attention, and encourage them to remain focused for short periods of time.

We are noticing children are challenging us when we ask for help.. For example “Please can you walk inside!” with “I don’t have to walk at home, I can run” or when we are trying to encourage tidying up “I don’t have to tidy up at home!” We are trying to encourage the children to understand the consequences of throwing toys or leaving them all over the place, that it is not safe, and they need to help tidy up! When they start reception they tidy up a lot and will be expected to be independent in this. Tidying up can be made fun, you can use it as a sorting exercise, or practice counting, and we ask that you support us with this by doing this at home. We can tell the children that do have to help at home and those that do not!

As I am sure you can imagine 25 children, leaving toys that they are no longer playing with, lying around is not a safe environment!

The team may have spoken to you about your child particularly not listening, and hope that you are able to talk to them about being respectful to their teachers as well as to their friends. One of the best things about coming to a setting is for children to learn how to be in a wider community and these will be life- long skills and the earlier they learn them, the easier they are going to find school. We “teach” children “Listening and Attention Skills” throughout the day not just in small groups but in everything we do, through play and daily routine. If you are finding similar issues at home or are struggling with anything, please do speak to us. We don’t have a “Parents Evening” but are happy to make an appointment to meet with you individually to discuss how your child is getting on. I have worked out that our team has exactly 100 years of experience working with young children and babies, so there is not much they would not have had experience with!!

**Lastly...**As usual, if you have any concerns or would like to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact me.

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