



January 2023 Newsletter

Wishing all our families a very Happy New Year. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. We had a super Christmas party to end our term. Well done to all the children for their amazing singing. In the run up to Christmas we had some great days for snow play, and of all our Christmas resources, the children particularly loved wrapping presents.

January brings lots of cold weather, so we will be outside exploring the environment in different weather conditions, making sure the birds aren't hungry, and learning all about winter. Inside we have lots of winter stories in our cosy book area, and polar small world animals to build environments for.

Strep A – Government guidance is that there is still a raised level of Strep A infection circulating. There are also lots of nasty flu cases circulating, as well as covid. As always, in line with our policy, please don't bring children to nursery if they have a temperature (a temperature managed by Calpol is still a temperature!), sickness and / or diarrhoea, or other symptoms of covid or scarlet fever.

Poor Weather Closures – In the event that Esklets has to close due to the weather conditions, a member of staff will contact you as soon as possible. Please make sure we have the right contact details for whoever will be bringing your child that morning or who will be collecting them. We will always endeavour to open and remain open, however the safety of our staff, the children and their families remains a priority.

Clothing – Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing to play both inside and outside. We wrap up and go outside in all weathers, encouraging children to explore their world. Please enable them to enjoy these experiences by helping them to keep warm. Dress children in layers – eg vest, top and jumper – with plenty of extras for going outside. Thick welly socks can really help, as can gloves, hats and warm waterproof coats. If your child comes to Esklets in their own wellies, could you please pack a pair of shoes or slippers for them to change into. As children get older we work with them to help them to become independent in their self-care (coats, shoes, toilet and dressing themselves). You can help them by making sure they come to Esklets in clothes and shoes that are easy to manage themselves (eg. leggings / tracksuit bottoms / velcro shoes).

Packed Lunches – Please could all packed lunches not contain sweets, chocolate or crisps. We have a duty of care to your children's health and oral health and we promote healthy eating at Esklets. If you need any meal ideas please see our website. Remember – we can heat food up; so beans on toast, soup, last night's tea, etc. we can accommodate.

30 hours funded childcare – Please don't forget to renew your 30 hour codes when sent a reminder email. If you aren't sure when your renewal is due, log into the system and it will give you an end date. If your codes are not renewed in time, the 30 hours code won't be valid and you will only be entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare.

If your child turns 3 between 1st January and 31st March, you need to apply for your 30 hour funding asap. If the code isn't in place before the 31st March, again the funding will not be valid.

Tax-Free Childcare – Do you know about the Government's Tax-Free Childcare Scheme? It is a scheme to help families with childcare costs. If you go onto the childcare choices website, you can find out if you are eligible. A lot of families don't realise they are eligible – for every £8 you pay towards your childcare costs, the government will top it up to £10. You can claim this from when your child is born up to when they are 11.

Website – I am in the process of adding our updated policies to the website (it's taking me a while as I'm learning how to do it as I go!!!). Please take the time to read them – they cover all areas of nursery, from what to do in an emergency to the way we educate your children.

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February is half term week. We will be continuing our trial of year-round opening this week, so will confirm bookings for this over the next few weeks.

We are also continuing to explore opening on Wednesdays, as we have a few potential children for this day. Do make sure we know if you would like your children to attend on Wednesdays if we opened.

Thank you for your continued support.