



## February 2023 Newsletter

**Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm**

**Fox & Hounds, Ainthorpe**

**ALL WELCOME!**

We've had a great start to the year, with new children to welcome and our current children busy and engaged with lots of different activities. We have been involved in lots of mark-making, story-telling, mixing paint colours, weighing, exploring ice; we've been for walks, had a fire, made bird feeders and developed physical skills. The older children have been spending short amounts of focused adult time doing some super maths and pre-phonics learning.

February will hopefully bring us some kinder weather and the first signs of springs. We'll think about the people we love around Valentines day, and mark Shrove Tuesday with pancake fun!

**Half-term Opening** – Half term week is the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> February. If anyone has not yet booked children in that wish to attend please let us know as soon as possible so that we can arrange staffing.

Whilst uptake for school holidays has been low, our term-time numbers are fantastic and we are at the point of needing another member of staff on some days. I have attached the advertisement we have put out – please circulate!

**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.

**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. 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).

**Scarborough Mayor's Fund** – Some time ago, after a suggestion from a parent, we applied for a grant from the Mayor's Fund to pay for our two new heaters. We finally heard back from them and our application was successful, which means the cost of the heaters – and their installation – has been covered. We'd like to extend our thanks to the Mayor of Scarborough.

**Policies** – I have now added our updated policies to the website. Please take the time to read them – they cover all areas of nursery, from what to do in an emergency and what to do if your child is ill, to the way we change nappies, prepare food and educate your children.

**A CALL FOR HELP!** I am really struggling with the website! The web host we use seems very complicated and is probably aimed at very computer-savvy, technical people! It now needs some things on the computer updating, but I can't work out how to do it – even with the reluctant help of my teenager!! If anyone is willing to volunteer to help – either by suggesting a newer, less-complicated webhost to start again, or by helping get the current one working properly, I would be so so grateful.

#### DIARY DATES:

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February, 7pm	Committee meeting at the Fox
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term week
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day. Children are welcome to come dressed as characters from stories (but please don't feel pressured to if they don't want to!)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Comic Relief

Between half term and Easter we are hoping to be able to walk along to visit Danby Fire Station. A date is yet to be confirmed, but all children will be welcome to join us even if it isn't their usual day. In order to be able to do this we will be asking for volunteers to help us walk there safely.

Thank you for your continued support.