

# Bluebell Lodge Newsletter



March 2017

## 30 free hours childcare for 3 and 4 year olds

From September 2017, the government will increase free childcare to 30 hours a week (for up to 38 weeks a year). This is part of the childcare act 2016. To qualify for the full 30 hours of free childcare, each parent (or the sole parent in a single parent family) will need to earn, on average, the equivalent of 16 hours on the national minimum wage per week and no more than £100,000 per year. A family with an annual household income of £199,998 would be eligible if each parent earns just under £100,000. Self-employed parents and parents on zero-hours contracts will be eligible if they meet the average earnings threshold. Families where one parent is not in paid employment (or neither parent works) will usually not be eligible for these additional hours. Parents who are studying or in training will not be eligible unless this is combined with paid work which meets the minimum average earnings threshold.



## New Car Seat Law

By 1 March 2017 new rules are being introduced across Europe that will change how backless booster seats (booster cushions) are made. The new rules mean that manufacturers aren't allowed to introduce new models of backless booster seats for children shorter than 125cm or weighing less than 22kg.

Existing seats not affected by new rules. The change doesn't affect existing models of seats or cushions and doesn't mean that they are unsafe or illegal - though parents are still being encouraged to make sure they know the rules for using child car seats. The change to the technical standards means that the ranges of products available on the market are better suited for younger children. For more information regarding car seat law please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>.

## Red Nose Day



**Friday  
24 March**

This year we are asking children to dress up in something red on Friday 24th March and help raise money for this fantastic cause by donating a £1. There will be plenty of fun activities throughout the week for all the children to enjoy. We are also selling Red Noses in the office and the Pre-school unit. If you wish to purchase a nose please see Anne or Vicky.

## Parent's Evening

This term Parents' Evening for all age groups will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. The evening will run from 18:00pm - 20.00. We hope you can come along to go through your child's learning journey and talk with your child's key worker. Appointments will start at 18:00 and last for 10 minutes. Please see Anne in the office to book an appointment. If you are unable to attend the evening due to work commitments or childcare please speak with Anne who will arrange a day time appointment.

### **Good Friday - Family Easter Fun Day**

We would like to invite you and your family to the Easter Family Fun Day on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April between 10.00am -12.00pm. There will a variety of be stalls i.e. Jo Jo's cupcake stall, donkey rides, bouncy castle, hook a duck, and many more activities to be confirmed. We will also be holding an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet parade. Entries to the Easter Bonnet competition are welcome from all the children and their siblings. Each entry will receive a small prize and certificate. Please see examples below:



### **Dates to remember.**

- 21<sup>st</sup> March - Parents Evening.
- 24<sup>th</sup> March – Comic Relief Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Fun Day.
- 14<sup>th</sup> April - Bank Holiday
- 17<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Monday. (Bank Holiday)
- 1<sup>st</sup> May - Bank holiday.
- 29<sup>th</sup> May - Bank holiday.

To see full events list for 2017 please visit our web page by clicking on the following link  
<http://www.learningcurvenursery.co.uk/welcome.asp>