

# Shepherd Lodge Newsletter

February 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.



**Chinese New Year** - The children have been experiencing a range of activities for Chinese New Year such as making lanterns, Chinese music and dance and also drawing Chinese symbols.



**Scaffolding learning** - The importance of the early years of a child's life has a huge impact on their development when transferring into an adolescent later on in life. Children need to be supported in order to build these life skills that are needed for their future. Nursery is a brilliant social environment where they are enabled to establish routines, build relationships and take part in challenging but fun activities. This is something that is known as scaffolding, the adults support the children throughout their developmental process as they attend nursery whilst adapting activities based on a child's individual need, this helps build the child's confidence and provides new opportunities for the children to become independent and widen their knowledge and understanding, which in turn are vital skills later on in life. Written by Stacey Trafford



**World Book Day** - World Book Day is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Children and staff are invited to dress up as their favourite character and bring the book into nursery. A main aim of World Book Day in the UK is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and reading. Here are some examples of different costumes, which can be found at Home Bargains, Asda, Tesco and Ebay.



**Fees** - Can I remind all parents that due to the recent burglaries that we have had Butterfly Lodge we will no longer be taking cash payments. Only card will be accepted or standing order. Payments are due on the 1st of every month please can you assist the admin team by ensuring that your standing orders are set for this time. If you are in receipt of childcare vouchers it would be appreciated if you could contact the providing company to change the voucher date to the beginning of the month. If you have any queries about your fees please speak to Katie in the office or contact Jayne on 346741. Thank you to every parent who pays their fees on time, your support is very much appreciated.

**Mother's Day Tempest photography** - On Saturday 4th February Tempest Photographers will be at Bluebell Lodge nursery from 9.30am till 1pm. You are welcome to bring your child/children along to have their photograph taken. If you would like your child to have their photograph taken please book a time slot in the office with Katie. Siblings are welcome to join their brother/sister if you would like a family photograph taken. These would be ideal for Mothers Day gifts.

Tempest photography advise not to wear red to this photograph session.

**Child Details** - It is important that you keep us informed of any changes to your child's details, i.e. address, etc. Please can all parents ensure that all your child's details are up to date. If you require any new forms please collect them from Katie in the office. If you haven't been able to attach photos to the 'People who are allowed to collect me form' you can email your photos to nursery our email address is [shepherdldodge@learningcurvenursery.co.uk](mailto:shepherdldodge@learningcurvenursery.co.uk)

**Labelling** - Please can all parents ensure that all your child's belongings are labelled, this is to include cups, bottles, dummies, comfort toys, shoes and clothes. A good website to have a look at is [www.easy2name.com](http://www.easy2name.com) they sell waterproof stick on labels and iron on tapes that stay on. Please mention nursery when you order as they give a small amount for fundraising. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



**Collections** - We are currently collecting ribbon, purses, bags, empty perfume bottles and boxes, empty chocolate boxes, used cards and envelopes.



### Dates for your diary

23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents evening.
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank holiday.
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday.
27 <sup>th</sup> July-	Parents evening.
28 <sup>th</sup> August	Bank holiday.
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents evening.
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Shepherd Lodge and Clifton Lodge's Christmas fair.
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Nursery closes at 18:00 for the Christmas period.
2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Nursery reopens at 08:00.