

Shepherd Lodge Newsletter



July 2017

30 free hours childcare - 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. To apply please go to <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>



Club Day - Thank you to everyone who joined us on the float at Lytham Club Day. We had a fantastic morning, it is lovely to see how happy the children are and how they have spoken about the float since.



Summer Fair - Festival theme- We will be holding this years Summer Fair Saturday 22nd July 2017 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm at **AKS The Pavillion**. Join us for an afternoon of festival theme fun and laughter - bring along your picnic blanket, there will be a barbeque, face painting and much more. Not forgetting the graduation ceremony for the Pre-School leavers. We will be holding the tombola and raffle too and have started collecting prizes. If you have anything you would like to donate please bring it in over the next few weeks and give it to your room co-ordinators or Katie in the office.



Learning about people who help us - The Pre School had a visit from 2 of our parents - one from the police and one from the ambulance service. The children listened really carefully and were able to ask lots of questions. They were also able to get involved by trying on hats and also using bandages on arms and legs. It is important for the children to learn about different occupations and the world around them. Thank you to both parents who came in to see us, the children have been speaking about it all day.



Childcare Choices The website



Childcare Choices - sets out all current and upcoming Government childcare offers and support available to parents, including the Tax-Free Childcare scheme and 30 hours, the 15 free hours, tax credits, Universal Credit and childcare vouchers. It has been launched by the Department for Education and the Treasury. Included on the website is a Childcare Calculator for parents to compare all offers and support available to them and check what works best for their family. Parents will be able to use Childcare Choices to register for alerts for the Tax-Free Childcare scheme, which the DfE and Treasury have now confirmed will start from 28 April for parents of the youngest children. They can also sign up for information about the 30 hours of free childcare for three- and four-year-olds, coming in from September, as well as sign up to e-mail alerts that will notify them when they can apply and provide details of existing Government childcare offers. For more information please visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Collections - We are currently collecting den making material.



Dates for your diary

22 nd July	Shepherd Lodge & Clifton Lodge Summer Fair Festival
27 th July	Parents evening.
28 th August	Bank holiday.
16 th November	Parents evening.
2 nd December	Shepherd Lodge and Clifton Lodge's Christmas fair.
22 nd December	Nursery closes at 18:00 for the Christmas period.
2 nd January	Nursery reopens at 08:00.