



Keep Guard Keep Safe Keep Playing
Committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Newsletter

April 2021

Good morning,



Bank Holiday Closures – Monday 3rd May 2021 and Monday 31st May 2021

Our ducklings are arriving on Tuesday 4th May 2021 – keep a look out on eyLog and Facebook for daily updates!



I would like to thank all the parents and carers who have been so helpful in completing their funding forms, this is a process that happens each term and is a form that must be completed by parents or carers, not the setting. Without this form completed, Bedford Borough will not release the funding monies and therefore not pay for the childcare our funded children receive and therefore you would become liable for the childcare your child has received. If you have not returned your funding form, please can you do so at your earliest convenience.

I am afraid to announce that after 14 years of service, Charly has decided to move on from Keep Guard for personal reasons and will therefore be leaving us on Tuesday 18th May 2021. Dawn has also decided to no longer pursue a career in childcare and will be leaving us on Thursday 20th May 2021. We wish them both the best of luck in their next career moves. We have been advertising the position for an Early Years Practitioner and are in the process of interviewing candidates, although working with children is highly demanding the rewards far outweigh the demands as you watch these children grow and develop ready for the next stage of their learning and development. If this is career change you would like to consider or know of someone who is looking for a new challenge, please come and speak to us. Further information is on our website under the vacancies section. If Charly or Dawn is your child's Key Person, you have been informed via eyLog of the Key Person change, please come and ask if you are unsure of who this is.

We are continuing to not accept any children in who have or are displaying symptoms of being unwell. This includes a 'common cold' or a 'snotty nose' as we need to protect the safety of all children, families, and staff as well as the business moving forward. We will also not be accepting any children into setting who have been given any pain medication such as Calpol before arriving to setting. If we have to administer pain medication or feel your child is unwell, we will automatically be sending them home to reduce the risk of spreading any type of illness or virus. Thank you to those parents who have kept their children off when they have been unwell, it really does support the cross contamination and reduce the spread of illness among the children.

We have had several parent/carers arriving late to collect their children, particularly around 5:00pm collection times. If you are not on site before the due time of departure and arrive late, I am afraid a late bill will be issued. It is incredibly difficult to maintain ratios when parent/carers are late, meaning staff are finishing their shift late, which is unfair. A late bill is £5 up to 15 minutes and will be issued each day a parent/carers is late on site.

We also have some exciting projects in setting, we have recently, created a new in-house library on the top floor which the children in Birth to Three Plus and Pre-School visit across the week and have just finished a new purposely resourced courtyard at the side of the building for the children to have somewhere to explore outside all year round, leaving three rather large projects to complete next, the first being the main garden, returning this back to a completely natural garden for the children to explore, moving Pre-School upstairs onto the top floor and finally making the basement a large

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physical space for all children to use. Once each project is completed, we will let you know and of course show photos or arrange tours if needed (and this is safe to do so under COVID-19 restrictions).

Part of young children's development is allowing them to have a good understanding of physical health and making good food choices, children should have up to 180 minutes of physical exercise a day, this involves moving their body in lots of different ways to develop muscle strength in all body areas, such as developing fine motor control through threading, mark making, manipulating items with their hands, using cutlery successfully, to large motor control through running, jumping, hopping, crawling, moving with greater control from one space to another. When we talk about physical exercise, this is children moving freely throughout the day around the home or in an outdoor space, an example of this is in Setting is the children do not have chairs, unless they are eating and drinking, therefore giving them the opportunities to stand and move while doing activities around them or stretching out over a floor space. We also discuss each snack and mealtime or during play with the children about healthy food choices, for example talking with them about how milk makes them grow big and strong as it contains calcium that helps our teeth and bones. While preparing dinners, it a great way to explore what foods support children in making healthy choices, and what foods are okay as a treat sometimes. Children often tell us how they feel after physical exercise and when they feel hungry, tired and thirsty.

At this point in the year, we begin to think about the next academic year in readiness for children moving through to the next rooms. If your child is due to move down to Pre-School from September 2021, you may be entitled to up to 30 hours extended funding and therefore may wish to increase your child's hours. If this is something you are wanting to do, please speak to Jamie about available options as Pre-School is already filling up with some limited availability on some days! This includes children who turn three and will move down in January 2022 and April 2022 as by that point in Pre-School there are very few places still available to extend hours. If your child has recently joined Pre-School and you are wanting to look at increasing their sessions from September 2021, please also speak to Jamie about available sessions.

As I'm sure most of the children in Pre-School and Birth to Three Plus have told you that they now have stick insects to look after in their rooms, these stick insects are now rather large! While the stick insects are very self-sufficient, we want to offer the opportunity for them to go home with different families over a weekend period. If this is something you are interested in, please send an eyLog message into the office. They would go home with the child on a Friday afternoon/evening and must be returned Monday morning for cleaning before being able to go back into the rooms for the children to explore.

Just to remind you all, we use the outdoor space all year round in all weathers therefore can I please ask that you ensure children are appropriately dressed for nursery, with a rain mac or coat and wellies (if your child does not have a pair in nursery) for the cooler winter days that have now arrived! Could I also take this opportunity to remind you all to label EVERYTHING with your child's name, so we can re-locate the owner quickly. Due to the weather conditions, we currently are using the yard area at the side of the building for the children to explore in smaller groups, however they still need to be wrapped up warm.

With the current COVID-19 recommendations, we will be ensuring the learning environments are well ventilated and therefore the windows will be slightly open all through the remaining winter months to allow ventilation, therefore please ensure you provide your child with a jumper/cardigan/hoodie for indoors as well as their usual coat for outdoor play.

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Although as a country we are in a National Lockdown, Early Years Settings are not and are open as normal to all children, therefore we still need to continue having to ensure we maintain strict guidelines in line with the Government guidance, one of which is social distancing in the carpark for parent/carers and restricting entry into the building for everyone's safety to continue to reduce the risk to all involved. **We will inform you via eyLog of any restrictions we have changed or lifted.** Thank you for your support in this and being so patient on drop off and collection. We are still having to follow the Governments and NHS guidance for COVID-19 and therefore just wanted to remind you of the below.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The advice the Government and Health officials are giving to us as a setting is to be vigilant of signs and symptoms in the children who show increases in temperature, are generally feeling unwell and have coughs and colds, where they are persistent and could be affecting their chests, but also noticing children who may appear to have lost sense of smell and taste. Allow your child to have time off if they feel unwell to recover before returning to nursery, if we feel children are too unwell to be here, we will ask you to collect them and keep them off until they are fully recovered.

The other key piece of advice is that children and adults wash their hands properly with soap and water for up to 20 seconds at a time. This means rubbing the soap over the hands and through the fingers and washing the soap off in the hottest water possible. We have a hand washing song in setting to support with this and the children should be able to teach it to you to use at home, if not, the staff will happily support this. They recommend supervised hand washing at least 4 times a day but should be before food and after blowing their nose, sneezing or coughing on their hands.

If you have travelled abroad, you must follow the Government guidance and if you feel unwell on return call 111 or 119 for advice, do not visit the GP surgery or return children to nursery as we all know children's immune systems are still developing and just like a common cold this could spread the virus through a setting very quickly.

If you, your child, or any member of your household shows any signs, they **MUST** not come into setting and a COVID-19 test must be carried out at the earliest convenience as this could impact on us and all our families and children.

Can I please ask that if you use our car park that you park in an allocated space? Our children must move across the car park to get into the garden, and it is becoming increasingly more challenging when vehicles are parked in front of the gate to the garden or at the top of the stairs. We talk about how to cross over safely and the children talk about how it is safe to cross.

We really appreciate your parental observations, photographs, and videos as they really do support your child's learning journey and encourage you to send them in as often as you can. Many of your child's important learning experiences occur away from nursery at home. Parental observations will give us important information about your child's interests, experiences, and developmental progress which we can use alongside our observations of your child to support their learning journey. If you have not activated your eyLog link please do so, each child has their own personal learning journey, and it will be great for you to keep up to date with their learning process. This is where notifications and invoices are also sent.

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Please ensure that you keep us updated of any changes to telephone numbers, addresses, emergency contacts and email addresses, so we can always ensure effective contact with you. Continue to read on for further information and most importantly diary dates. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Lynn and all the staff team at Keep Guard Day Nursery.



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2 Year Old Funding

Have you got a 2 year old?

Did you know your 2 year old could get up to 15 hours a week free care, learning and play here?

Your child will have the opportunity to learn through play, make new friends, try different activities, improve their communication and get a good start to their education.

Your 2 year old may be eligible if one of the following apply:

1. You are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support through Part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child tax credit, and have a annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190

2. Your family received working tax credit with a household income of less than £16,190

3. Your 2 year old has a statement of special educational needs or an education; health and care plan or is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

4. The 2 year old is currently in the care of the Local Authority (LAC) or has left care through a special guardianship or an adoption or residence order.

To find out more and apply go to www.bedford.gov.uk/2yearfunding or call Bedford Borough Family Information Service on 0800 023 2057.

30 Hour Offer

The eligibility checker at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> is now live for you to check if you are eligible for the 30 hours offer for working families with 3 and 4 year old children.

You will receive a DERN code that you will need to provide us with along with your name or names and your National Insurance number/s which we will need to send in to the Local Authority with your consent along with your child's name and date of birth to confirm your eligibility for the funding.

Without this information **we will not** be able to provide you with 30 hours funding offer: however, you will still be eligible for the 15 hours universal funding. Please note that the following cut off dates apply for obtaining a DERN code: 31st August for the Autumn Term, 31st December for the Spring Term and 31st March for the Summer Term.

If the initial code is not applied for by these dates Bedford Borough will not be paid for the extended 15 hours until the following term. Parents need to check their eligibility on line every three months and in turn inform us that they are still eligible; otherwise they may not continue to receive the additional funding.

If you encounter any difficulties applying on line please contact HMRC on 0300 0123 4097

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Some children who are receiving the 3 and 4 year old free 15 hour education entitlement could be eligible for EYPP. This means that your child's nursery, preschool or childminder could get up to £300 each year to support your child's learning.

We will work with you to consider the learning needs of your child and the additional funding will be used to support your child's development. This could be through the purchase of new resources, training staff or buying services from external agencies such as toy libraries and music groups.

During our recent Ofsted inspection we were required to show how the funding is used.

Is my child eligible?

3 and 4 year-olds in state-funded early education will attract EYPP funding if you meet at least one of the following criteria: • Income Support • Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance • Income-related Employment and Support Allowance • Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 • The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit • Child Tax Credit (provided they're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190) • Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit • Universal Credit.

Developing Independence

We actively encourage children to be as independent as possible getting their coats and shoes on. Unfortunately, some children are struggling to put their shoes back on due to 'laces'.

Velcro shoes are perfect for nursery and offer the children a sense of pride and achievement once they are on.

Diarrhoea and Vomiting

If your child has had a bout of diarrhoea OR sickness, they must remain at home for 48 hours after their last bout, as stated in our 'Sickness and Illness' Policy.

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Parking

We ask that all parents and visitors using our car park, park their vehicles in the designated parking bays, and do not park across three spaces or drop off right outside the main entrance. This causes congestion and danger to children and their families.

Nappies and Toilet Training

Please can I remind parents with children requiring nappies to ensure there is a sufficient amount brought in for your child.

We would kindly ask that if your child is toilet training then you provide plenty of changes of underwear, socks and joggers or leggings. Plastic 'croc' style shoes or jelly shoes are also a good idea as these can be easily washed if an accident does occur.

Please see the 'toilet training' display in the entrance hall for lots of ideas and support.

Five to Thrive

We would like to introduce Five to Thrive to all of our Parents, which is the things you do every day that help your child's growing brain. Your child's body grows better when you give your child good food. Your child's brain grows better when you do five simple things that feed their growing brain:

- Respond
- Cuddle
- Relax
- Play
- Talk



Birthdays

If your child is celebrating their birthday whilst at nursery and you would like to bring in a treat to share, we would kindly ask you to bring in NON-FOOD gifts, for example; balloons, bubbles, pencils. NO SWEETS/CAKES/RAISINS. Thank you.

Paper Request

Does your work throw out any old paper big or small, end of big rolls or use large computer paper (tricky now as everyone is trying to go paperless) or rolls of wallpaper?

We are always in need of paper for the children's drawings and paintings. If you know of any paper being thrown out, please see Esther.

Christmas Closure 2021

Please note that the whole of Keep Guard will be closed over the Christmas period from Thursday 23rd December 2021 and then back open on Monday 3rd January 2022 for children who attend all

year. Funded and Term Time Only children will be back on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

Diary Dates

Monday 3 rd May	Nursery Closed - Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 th May	Ducklings Arriving
Friday 14 th May	Ducklings Collected
Friday 28 th May	Last Day of Term for Funded and Term Time Only children
Monday 31 st May - Friday 4 th June	May Half-Term
Monday 31 st May	Nursery Closed - Bank Holiday
Monday 7 th June	Funded and Term Time Only children return
Thursday 22 nd July	Last Day of Term for Funded and Term Time Only children
Friday 23 rd July - Friday 3 rd September	Summer Holidays
Tuesday 31 st August	Last day for Pre-School children who are off to school