



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

# Newsletter

August 2021

Good morning,

**Term Time Children return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

Can you believe we are almost at the end of the Summer Holidays and getting ready to welcome back our term time only children as well as all the new families that are joining us!

**We are continuing to not allow parents or carers into the building to reduce the risk to all our children and staff on site, this will be reviewed regularly in line with our risk assessments, and we will of course inform you of any changes. Please ensure you wait in the carpark, and we will bring your child/children to you. If you can't see a member of staff at the door, please come in and press the buzzer.**

As you are all aware, we have been working on some exciting projects in setting, where we have created an in-house library on the top floor which the children in Birth to Three Plus and Pre-School visit across the week and finished a purposely resourced courtyard at the side of the building for the children to have somewhere to explore outside all year round, most recently we have just completed the garden, returning this back to a completely natural garden for the children to explore and we have worked tirelessly over the summer holidays to move Pre-School upstairs onto the top floor ready for all the new children in September. This means our final



project, making the basement into a large physical space for all children to use will be completed over the next academic year. Once each project is completed, we will let you know and of course show photos or arrange tours if needed (and safe to do so under our COVID-19 restrictions).



**We have had several parent and carers arriving late to collect their children, particularly around 1:00pm 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 or carers are late, meaning staff are either finishing their shift late or unable to go on their break on time, which is unfair. A late bill of £5 up to 15 minutes will be issued each day a parent or carer is late on site.**

Esther will be sending home a checklist for each child's bag, we have several children who attend setting each day, either without a bag, in wellies, without a coat/jacket or without a change of clothes. We do not keep enough clothes in storage to support the number of changes we have been having to do, especially underwear and socks. Please ensure your child

Keep Guard Day Nursery, The West Wing, The Keep, Walcourt Road, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 8SJ  
Tel: 01234 327955 Fax: 01234 347718 [keepguardnursery@aol.com](mailto:keepguardnursery@aol.com) [www.keepguarddaynursery.co.uk](http://www.keepguarddaynursery.co.uk)



Keep Guard Keep Safe Keep Playing

Committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

# Newsletter

August 2021

attends each session with what they need, especially shoes they can wear all day, not wellies as these do not support children's feet for longer periods of day and can be uncomfortable to wear all day.

**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.**

We are still advertising for an Early Years Practitioner, if you know of someone who may be interested or looking for a new challenge, please ask them to get in touch or visit our website. It is with regret to inform you all that Lindsay has decided not to return to us in September, following her family's relocation to Peterborough. Esther will now join the Birth to Three Plus team until we are able to successfully appoint another practitioner.

You should have all now received an email (via eyLog) to inform you who your child's Key Person is going to be or will meet them during the settling in stage of your child joining us or moving rooms. Just to remind you, the staffing will be as follows:

Birth to Three	Birth to Three Plus	Pre-School
Evelyn Field	Esther Thomas	Michelle Warren
Lauren Jolly	Donna Hamilton	Sasha Hibbert
Jessica Osborne	Kayleigh Meekins	Toni Andrews
Nicola Hutchinson	Shannon Hine	Amy Lowman

**If you have any spare rolls of wallpaper at home that you no longer need, please think of us, our Pre-School children can easily go through a roll a week with all their fantastic mark-making!**

Part of young children's development is allowing them to be 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.

Keep Guard Day Nursery, The West Wing, The Keep, Walcourt Road, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 8SJ  
 Tel: 01234 327955 Fax: 01234 347718 [keepguardnursery@aol.com](mailto:keepguardnursery@aol.com) [www.keepguarddaynursery.co.uk](http://www.keepguarddaynursery.co.uk)



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

# Newsletter

August 2021

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) and please apply sun cream if the weather is hot prior to your session starting. If your child attends all day we will apply or help your child apply sun cream after lunch time ready for the afternoon session. 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 and garden upgrade, we currently are using the yard area at the side of the building for the children to explore in smaller groups, however they still appropriate clothing for the weather.

**With the current COVID-19 recommendations, we will be ensuring the learning environments are well ventilated and therefore the windows will be slightly open 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.**

We are maintaining our 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.

**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.

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.

Keep Guard Day Nursery, The West Wing, The Keep, Walcourt Road, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 8SJ  
Tel: 01234 327955 Fax: 01234 347718 [keepguardnursery@aol.com](mailto:keepguardnursery@aol.com) [www.keepguarddaynursery.co.uk](http://www.keepguarddaynursery.co.uk)



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

# Newsletter

August 2021

## 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](http://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: 31<sup>st</sup> August for the Autumn

Term, 31<sup>st</sup> December for the Spring Term and 31<sup>st</sup> March for the Summer Term.

If the initial code is not applied for by these dates Bedford Borough will not 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.





Keep Guard Keep Safe Keep Playing

Committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

# Newsletter

August 2021

## 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.

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 and then back open on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 for children who attend all year. Funded and Term Time Only children will be back on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

## Diary Dates

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Funded and Term Time Only children return
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October - Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Half-Term
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Funded and Term Time Only children return
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term for Funded and Term Time Only children
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Nursery Closed - Christmas Closure
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> December - Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Funded and Term Time Only children return