



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

Newsletter

February 2020

Good morning to you all,

Can you believe we are in February already and only two weeks away from a half-term holiday? **Just to remind you all that the last day of term for our term time only and funded only children will be Friday 14th February, with them returning on Monday 24th February.**

I am delighted to share with you that we have an Early Years Assistant joining the Pre-School team today, Dawn Jules. I am sure you will support me in welcoming her to the team. It is with regret however to inform you that Lauren Gower has decided to not return to us to continue her training and development to become an Early Years Practitioner and therefore we have a vacancy for either an Early Years Assistant or Early Years Practitioner, 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 Facebook page and website under the vacancies section.

We are already starting to think about September 2020 in setting and are getting very full, very quickly especially in our Birth to Three room (Baby Room), if you are wanting to change your sessions, increase your sessions or start a younger sibling with us, I am afraid to say now is the time you need to be thinking about it! Please come and speak to Jamie regarding session changes or email in via eyLog and we will let you know what availability we have, if any is left. Parents of children in Birth to Three Plus, who will be moving into Pre-School in September and may be eligible for 30-hours funding, do really need to be thinking about what requirements you need from September as we will not hold spaces and they are issued on a first come, first served basis. If your child is due to transition into the next room shortly, we already allocate them a space based on the sessions they currently do.

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.

Just to remind you all that 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 warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves as well as wellies (if your child does not have a pair in nursery) for the cooler winter days. With the weather being unpredictable it's best to have all bases covered for this month. 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.

Can I please ask that if you use our car park that you park in an allocated space? Our children have to 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

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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 haven't 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.



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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 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

How do I apply?

You can check if you are eligible go to the online checker on the My Early Learning website (<https://www.myearlylearning.co.uk/EarlyYears/About>) Click on 'Apply Now' under EYPP - You will get a reference number when you apply and if you are eligible give this to your child's setting. **Your child may also be eligible if:** they are currently being looked after by a local authority in England or Wales; they have left care in England or Wales through: adoption; a special guardianship order; a child arrangement order.



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Collection Times

We would kindly ask that all children are dropped off and picked up on time. The biometric finger print system has been successful, however if you are late collecting your child, the system will not let you in. Parents will be charged £5 for 'up-to' every 15 minutes they are late. Full day care finishes at 6pm, and children need to be collected by 6pm at the latest. Unfortunately when children are picked up late, this has a knock-on-effect for staff that may need to catch buses or collect their own children as they finish their shift at 6pm. We appreciate your cooperation with this issue.

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.

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.

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.

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



Medication

We would like to remind all our parents that if your child needs liquid paracetamol or similar medication during their time at nursery, such medication should be treated as prescription medication with the onus being on you the parent to provide the medicine you wish to use. Please ensure all medicines are clearly named and are in date. Thank you. Please see our medication policy for further clarification, which can be found in the entrance hall on the top shelf.

Fledglings

Come and join other new Mums and their babies on Friday mornings between 9:30am and 11.00am, to share a cup of tea or coffee in a cosy setting to celebrate your new baby. FREE and Term Time only. The Children's Centre joins us every 6 weeks to offer advice, support and baby weighing. Don't forget your red book!

Mums with bumps are also welcome to attend.

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 2020

Please note that the whole of Keep Guard will be closed over the Christmas period from Wednesday 23rd December 2020 and then back open on Monday 4th January 2021 for full time children. Funded and Term Time Only children will be back on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

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Diary Dates

Friday 14 th February	Last Day of the Half Term
Monday 17 th February - Friday 21 st February	Half Term
Monday 24 th February	Funded and Term Time Only children return
Monday 24 th February - Friday 28 th February	Birth to Three - Stay, Play and Learning Week
Monday 2 nd March	Ducklings arrive
Monday 2 nd March - Friday 6 th March	Birth to Three Plus - Stay, Play and Learning Week
Monday 9 th March - Friday 13 th March	Pre-School - Stay, Play and Learning Week
Thursday 12 th March	Ducklings collected
Friday 3 rd April	Last Day of Term
Friday 10 th April	Nursery Closed - Good Friday
Monday 13 th April	Nursery Closed - Easter Monday
Tuesday 21 st April	Funded and Term Time Only children return
Friday 8 th May	Nursery Closed - Early May Bank Holiday (moved from Monday 4 th May)