



Keep Guard Keep Safe Keep Playing

Committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

# Newsletter

June 2021

Good morning,

**Summer Holidays - Funded and Term Time Only Children - Last Day: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021**  
**Last day for Pre-School children starting school: Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

I would just like to start by thanking all the parents and carers who have supported us in keeping everyone as safe as possible when children are poorly, by keeping them off and at home. While I appreciate this is not always easy with working commitments, it really does support the reduction of cross contamination and reduce the spread of illness among the children and staff.

**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.**

I'm pleased to announce that Jessica Osborne has joined the team and will be working in Birth to Three. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming her to the Keep Guard Team. 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.

With the number of children transitioning through from Birth to Three into Birth to Three Plus and Birth to Three Plus into Pre-School we have looked at different staffing options for September. If your child requires a change of Key Person, you will be informed via eyLog of this change, and they will come and introduce themselves to you where possible prior to the summer holidays or in September. The staffing will be as follows:

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

## Pre-School School Leavers:

We currently have 39 Pre-School children leaving us to start school in September 2021 and we are working hard on ensuring the children attending are as school-ready as possible. Jamie has already completed transitions with the schools and will be sending School Reports next week. The children who attend term time or funding only will finish with us on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021**. The children who attend all year will be able to attend setting until **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**. You will receive further information via eyLog on how to access your child's learning journey and when your accounts will be deactivated. Please double check with your child's school when they are planning to start them, as you



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may need to arrange alternative childcare in the short term or book annual leave. We have several children starting Pre-School and moving down to Pre-School so would not be able to offer any extra sessions past Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

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.

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 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 or have an upset stomach or sore throat. 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.

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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.

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](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.



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## 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

Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last Day of Term for Funded and Term Time Only children
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July - Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Summer Holidays
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Nursery Closed - Bank Holiday
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Last day for Pre-School children who are off to school
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Funded and Term Time Only children return