



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

# Newsletter

March 2020

Good morning to you all,

Keep Guard Day Nursery turned 24 years old yesterday (8<sup>th</sup> March). Here's hoping to another 24 years in business!

## 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. 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 and feel unwell on return you must self-isolate your child and family, calling 111 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 or school very quickly.

There are also now a number of cases that have hit the news where people have not travelled abroad but have contracted Coronavirus, again children and families would need to self-isolate and ring 111 for advice to reduce the spread of the virus.

Some more positive news, we successfully hatched 6 ducklings and they will be with us until Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March. The children are doing a superb job of looking after them, helping them grow bigger and stronger. Pre-School will be doing lots of different problem solving activities this week as they need to transport them safely to allow them to swim and look after them, keeping them entertained while an adult cleans out their cage, as 6 little ducklings are extremely messy!

We have our last 'Stay, Play and Learning' Week in Pre-School this week (09.03.20-13.03.20). These are held each term. It has been lovely to see some new faces during these weeks in Birth to Three and Birth to Three Plus.

We are already starting to think about September 2020 and January 2021 in setting and are getting very full, very quickly in all our areas, 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, you also 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 have already allocated them a space based on the sessions they currently do.

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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 spring 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 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](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 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

## 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.



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## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 and then back open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for full time children. Funded and Term Time Only children will be back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## Diary Dates

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre-School - Stay, Play and Learning Week
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Ducklings collected
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Last Day of Term
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Nursery Closed - Good Friday
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Nursery Closed - Easter Monday
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Funded and Term Time Only children return
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Nursery Closed - Early May Bank Holiday (moved from Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May)