



Keep Guard Keep Safe Keep Playing

Committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Newsletter

November 2019

Good morning to you all,

I would like to start with a massive thank you to you all that have supported us in raising money for Jeans for Genes Day with your generous donations; we managed to raise £45.60. Our next charity event for this term is Children in Need, we currently have a raffle going on (tickets are on sale in the rooms) and 'Guess the Number of Chocolates' in the jar in the main entrance. The raffle will be drawn this Friday (15th November) and the top three prizes are Children in Need pyjamas.

It is with regret to inform you that Jenna has decided that Keep Guard is not the right setting for her to work in; due to the level of expectation we have in regard to the children receiving the best possible learning experiences in all we do and therefore we currently have a vacancy within Pre-School. As part of our interview process we go through rigorous procedures to ensure we appoint the most skilled and experienced practitioners, however practitioners from other settings do not always work in the same way or to the same standard as we do and therefore can find how we work a struggle to adapt to. Sadly Jenna decided that she wasn't prepared to give this a try.

On a more positive note we have Lauren Gower who joined us today as part of the Birth to Three team. Lauren will be working across both rooms. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming her to the team.

We will be sending out some important information regarding some changes we are making to benefit the children from January within Birth to Three. We will send this information out to you via eyLog. Once you receive this information, if you are unsure or have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask either myself, Esther or Jamie. From January, Sasha will also be based full time in Pre-School and therefore will be spending some time with the children transitioning down over the next few weeks to support this. Where possible we try to move practitioners with large groups of children to support their well being and readiness to learn.

We have a number of children who have been at nursery over the last 4 weeks who are clearly not well enough to be here. I fully appreciate we have entered the season of the 'common cold' but a number of children have been in setting where it is more than a common cold and therefore we have had to ask practitioners to seek senior leader advice if at handover there are concerns over an ongoing illness or symptoms that potentially could become unmanageable within nursery. If a child is on prescribed anti biotics, we are happy to support in giving this medication to them whilst in setting, in line with our Medication Policy, however can not give children regular pain medications, such as calpol to get them through the day. If a child is accepted in setting following a dose of pain medication given at home, if the child requires another dose in setting, we will make contact for your child to be collected as they are not well enough to be here. Over the last four weeks, as a setting I have had to cover 18 days staff absence as staff have picked up infections from children being in setting that are not well enough to be here. This is something I can not continue to do, as I need to ensure that infection risks are limited in order that ratios can be maintained and learning remains the focus. We also have a number of children who are now becoming continuously unwell on round two or three of antibiotics because they are also unable to clear the illness as children who are unwell continue to come into setting. I will be sending out more information via eyLog to support this.

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 autumn/winter days. With the weather being unpredictable it's best

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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 an 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 2019

Please note that the whole of Keep Guard will be closed over the Christmas period from Monday 23rd December 2019 and then back open on Thursday 2nd January 2020 for full time children. Funded children will be back on Monday 6th January 2020.

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Diary Dates

Monday 4 th November - Friday 8 th November	2-3 Room - Stay, Play and Learning Week
Monday 11 th November - Friday 15 th November	Pre-School - Stay, Play and Learning Week
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need Raffle
Tuesday 10 th December	Christmas Dinner Day (for children who are already booked in on that day)
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term for Funded and Term Time Only children
Monday 23 rd December - Wednesday 1 st January	Nursery Closed - Christmas Closure
Monday 23 rd December - Friday 3 rd January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 th January	Funded and Term Time Only children return