WASPS Out of School Club

A warm and safe environment where children aged 3 to 13 learn, grow and have fun!

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2020

Thank you to all of you for your support, patience and cooperation since we reopened in September after lockdown. It has been a long and tiring term and stressful is an understatement! But we have made it to the end of the half term COVID19 free and much stronger and wiser as a team to care for your children. The enhanced cleaning systems we have in place have been hard work but has taught us that we can operate a safe environment providing we all work together and communicate with each other.

Unfortunately when we reopened we lost around a third of our children due to parents working from home, losing their jobs or businesses and this has had a huge affect on the business. Also due to the groupings of children to a maximum of 15 per group this has also had a knock on affect. I will be looking at bookings for the new year and working on marketing WASPS to try and bring the business back to where it was pre COVID19. Surprisingly in the UK during the lockdown, around 70% of Out of School Clubs closed due to lack of financial help from the Government to keep them open. The insurance companies not paying for loss of earnings either did not help those business keep going. During lockdown I was busy contacting the insurance companies, Oliver Heald MP and the financial ombudsman but due to the wording in the policies the insurance companies did not pay out for loss of earnings and no childcare providers received any monies to keep them open. The furlough money helped retain staff and the self-employment income I received topped up their wages to ensure we were able to reopen again. Also the parents that still paid during lockdown helped to secure staff so I am eternally grateful to you all for this help.

I am extremely lucky as I have a very supportive family that are currently covering all my expenses so I can remain open as long as possible. At present the expenses for staff, resources, cleaning, food, training, insurance, rent etc are being covered by income from occupancy but I am being supplemented by my own family for my expenses. When you own a business you put this first and this I will always do but sometimes I feel that I just need to share this with you to let you know that to reopen in September was very much a family decision as without them helping me things may have been very different. I am extremely blessed as I enjoy my job and making a difference to the children that I care for.

CHILDRENS INPUT/VOICE

Children have got used to being in their bubbles and playing with a limited amount of resources. I have sat with them and asked what they would like to change next term and some of the ideas are more board games, puzzles, competitions, quizzes, den building, table tennis outside, learn woodworking (yes they want to use hammers and nails!) although this will be aimed at Years 4 and above only and will be risk assessed before we let you know what we will be doing. Children seem to be missing the team games more than anything else so this will be part of the changes to next terms planning for each group. They do miss playing with their friends from different Schools but have got used to this now and when they play outside have found ways of playing together in a social distanced way.

STAFF NEWS

Rebecca Plumb has settled in well to the team and has been able to cover for staff shortages where needed. She has completed many courses so far and will be completing her First Aid on Saturday 24th October.

Chloe Congrave has also settled well into the team and brings a fresh and young approach to playing with children. She will be helping with the Early Years children and their learning journals along with Sarah Congrave.

Sadly we say goodbye to Jemma Garside tomorrow (23rd October) after 2 years as she moves to Chester to start a new life with her boyfriend Paul and a new position in a Nursery. We wish her lots of luck in her new exciting adventure and am proud of the shy person that first started with us that is now full of confidence!

We are pleased to say that Sarah Rhodes has joined our team this week and she will be taking over some of Jemma’s hours. Sarah will be working 4 mornings and 3 afternoons and is excited to be working with children again. Some of you may know Sarah from the village and she used to work at Roger de Clare School in the School office up until 2015 before working for the NHS. I am sure you will all welcome Sarah when you meet her.

We will also have a young lady joining us tomorrow (23rd October) on a work taster course during November called Phoebe Bridge. She will be coming in on a Friday and Tuesday afternoon to work with the children to see if this is the right career path for her. We wish her lots of luck during her time with us.

During lockdown staff completed lots of training such as Infection Control, Language and Development, Children’s Yoga, Prevent Duty, Safeguarding, Special Needs and Inclusion, Anaphylaxis Awareness and this weekend Sarah Congrave, Sarah Rhodes and Rebecca Plumb will all be attending their First Aid training.

I have recently completed a course on PARS Playwork and am now classed as a PARS Playwork trainee. I was on an International conference on Monday from 8am to 8pm with attendees from 17 countries listening to speakers regarding the benefits of this practice and I found this extremely interesting.

PARS Playwork is based on the original philosophy of the adventure playground pioneers and is aimed at allowing children to “do what they need to do and not what the adults think they ought to do” within a play environment. So for example rather than an adult set up an activity and lead a child into doing it the way the adult wants it done, the adult will let the children choose and use the resources the way they choose to for the end result. This will allow the child to use their imagination and empower them to be able to make choices in their play. The adult is then used as a guide rather than a lead in this instance and brings back the freedom of free play to the child. There are many elements to this model and I will be trialling some of them with the children such as the woodworking idea for Year 4 and upwards.

PARENT SATISFACTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to those of you that have sent back your completed questionnaires. If you have not sent yours back yet, please could you do so by the end of the month for me to go through and see what we can change. Please think about things you would like to change or suggestions for extra sessions that could help enhance your childcare experience with us.

Once I have collated the questionnaires I will send you a summary of them and go through areas of improvement and ideas and suggestions for change.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE/INFORMATION

I will continue to update you all as and when we receive updated information from our local authorities regarding COVID19. As you all know things change daily so this is why this information is sent via email rather than wait to be put into a newsletter.

INVOICES AND FEE INCREASE

As you will now be aware, we have all details on our database and are able to generate invoices from there. On the invoices it has the sessions that you are being charged for so if there are any changes please make sure you inform us. Also, with regards to invoices please be aware that in your contract it does say that invoices are due to be paid by the first of that month at the latest. As per your contract you will be charged £1 per day until you pay that invoice.

Also please remember that if you go over your contracted time for After School Club or bring children in before their contracted time for Breakfast Club, then you will be charged the higher fee which is less than 1 weeks’ notice as per your contract.

Due to the increase in cleaning and PPE equipment I will unfortunately need to increase fees slightly with effect from January 2021. The increase will be to cover the costs that have been incurred from September 2020 which I felt I could not increase fees then as this was just unfair to everyone concerned. The increase will be as follows:

**Fees for Breakfast Club**

07.45 to 08.50am (including walk to school) £7.25 increase to £7.50

07.45 to 08.50am (occasional basis) £8.75 increase to £9.00

07.30 to 07.45am (early drop off) £2.00 – no increase

**Fees for After School Club**

3.15 to 5.15pm £12.75 increase to £13.00

3.15 to 5.15pm (occasional basis) £14.75 increase to £15.00

3.15 to 6.15pm £17.25 increase to £17.50

3.15 to 6.15pm (occasional basis) £18.75 increase to £19.00

Collection from SPINS Nursery at 2.15pm £4.00 increase to £4.50

Collection/Take to clubs on site after normal school hours £1 extra – no increase

Collection of children by car from St Thomas of Canterbury

And Jenyns School £2 extra – no increase

Late collection of a child after £6.15pm/6pm Play Scheme £15 – no increase

Failure to notify club of child absences daily £2 extra – no increase

There is a 10% discount for 2nd child from a family that have 2 or more children attending.

**Fees for Holiday Play Scheme**

8am to 1pm £12 increase to £12.50

1pm to 6pm £12 increase to £12.50

8am to 6pm £23 increase to £24.00

If more than 1 child per family attending the amount will reduce by £1 per child per session.

PLAY SCHEME

Unfortunately we needed to cancel October play scheme due to lack of bookings. I understand from lots of parents that they had accrued holiday during lockdown and obviously needed to use those holiday days before the end of the year. I do understand this and although it is a shame that we had to cancel we are all aware that ‘normal’ times are still a long way ahead of us. We will be advertising our February play scheme and again should we not receive enough bookings then again we will need to cancel. We have to have a minimum of 15 children booked in for the day to cover the staff expenses and rent for the hall otherwise we would be open at a loss. Due to COVID19 and lockdown we are unable to open at a loss as there is just not enough help available for childcare businesses during closures.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INFORM US

Please remember that we stop serving breakfast at 8.00am at present due to the need to pack away and clean before we leave the building and SPINS Nursery enter at 08.30am. This is the only way we are able to open both business alongside each other at present. Any children that arrive after this time will not be offered breakfast unless there are any cereal bars left. This is simply because all children need to be in the foyer at 8.30am to get ready for School and everything in the hall and kitchen must be put away and locked up to allow SPINS Nursery to set up for their session.

Also, we are having lots of occasions where parents are not informing us that their child or children are not attending a session with us. This is the reason we have on our contracts £2 charge for not informing us.

In the afternoons we nearly always need to wait to get the School secretary to ring the parent or Teacher and ask where a child is and why WASPS have not been informed. On a couple of occasions, we have been close to ringing the Police as the child has not been accounted for. Please ensure you let us know if your child or children are going to be absent from a session by text or email please so that we have something in writing. Sometimes we are asked by the School to show them proof that a child is not with us when they are supposed to be. The safety of your child is always our main priority. Where we drive to School to collect children this can also mean that we can sometimes send 2 vehicles when it is just not needed so again just a text, email or phone call will help to deploy staff where they are needed. Thank you in advance.

ACCIDENT NOTIFICATIONS

Please be aware that if your child has an accident or if we have issues with behaviour, we will send out a PDF document with the details on to you by email. We have been using this system almost 2 years now and is being used to cut down on the amount of paper that is used and to make generating reports and keeping an eye on behaviour and accidents between children much easier to monitor. As this will be sent by email as it happens, please ensure that the email address we hold on file is always correct. By sending these electronically, we have a timestamp, so we can see when these are sent to parents and let them know the time should you not receive a notification in your inbox. If for some reason the internet is not working, then you will be asked to sign a paper copy of the accident when you collect your child.

RESOURCES NEEDED

Thank you so much for the resources that you give us when your children no longer play with them. Our toys are forever being broken or simply worn out so anything that you give us is always appreciated.

Please remember us when you are looking at taking toys to the charity shop or throwing away. Children love new toys and they are so expensive to replace.

We are always looking for paper, pens and craft items as well as toys so on the lead up to Christmas, please feel free to donate any items and we will clean them and make good use of them!

END OF TERM

We reopen on Monday 2nd November normal times and our last day of term will be Friday 18th December. We will collect children from Schools at the earlier times as follows:

Roger de Clare School – 1.15pm

Ralph Sadleir School – 1.30pm

St Thomas of Canterbury School – 1.30pm

Jenyns School – 12.15pm – Parents please inform me if this has changed as I will need to find out if hall is free earlier for this day!

If you do not need your child collected at the earlier time on Friday 18th December could you, please inform us as soon as you can. We will close at normal time of 6.15pm that day.

OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

Monday 2nd November – Thursday 3rd December

Monday 7th December - Friday 18th December (1.15pm Collection RC/1.30pm ST/1.30pm RS/12.15 J)

**2021**

Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February

***PLAY SCHEME – Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February (08.00am-6.00pm)***

Monday 22nd February – Friday 26th March (1.15pm Collection RC/1.30pm ST/1.30pm RS/12.15 J)

***PLAY SCHEME Monday 29th March – Thursday 1st April (08.00am-6.00pm)***

***PLAY SCHEME – Tuesday 6th April – Friday 9th April (08.00am-6.00pm)***

Monday 12th April – Friday 30th April

Tuesday 4th May – Wednesday 5th May

Friday 7th May - Friday 28th May

Monday 7th June – Wednesday 21st July (1.15pm Collection RC/1.30pm ST/1.30pm RS/12.15 J)

***PLAY SCHEME – Monday 9th August – Friday 13th August (08.00am-6.00pm)***

***PLAY SCHEME – Monday 16th August – Friday 20th August (08.00am-6.00pm)***

***PLAY SCHEME – Monday 23rd August – Friday 27th August (08.00am-6.00pm)***

We will be **closed** on the following dates

**2020**

Friday 4th December (RC, RS Occasional Day)

Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January (Christmas Holidays)

**2021**

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday)

Monday 5th April (Easter Monday)

Monday 3rd May (May Day)

Thursday 6th May (Hall Closed for Elections)

Friday 8th May (May Day/VE Day)

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June (Whitsun)

Friday 23rd July – Friday 6th August (Summer Holidays)

Monday 30th August (Bank Holiday)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE DATES MAY ALTER SLIGHTLY IF SCHOOLS INTRODUCE MORE INSET OR OCCASIONAL DATES FOR 2020/2021

CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Mobile: 07904 391133 (Nicola keeps), 2nd Mobile: 07500 665439 (Kept at hall)

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