

February 2021 Newsletter

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www.beetley-preschool.org

Follow us on our Facebook page

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR A
FACE COVERING WHEN DROPPING
OFF OR PICKING UP YOUR
CHILDREN**

Dates to remember

Bags2School

Tuesday 20th April 2021

Last day of this half term

Friday 12th February 2021

2019-2020 Term Dates

Spring half term – Monday 15th – 19th February
Friday 26th March – Last day of Spring term

Monday 12th April – First day of Summer term
Summer half term – Monday 31st May – Friday 4th
June
Last day of summer term – Wednesday 21st July

Please note some of these days maybe subject to change as we decide if our End of Term Graduation party is organised.

Welcome back

Preschool remains open and we are glad to see some of you face to face each day and others of you when you upload pictures of what you have been doing at home. We will continue to add activities and stories to Family but please let us know if there is something your child is particularly interested in and we will see if we can help.

Schools are to remain closed for most pupils until 8th March at the earliest, but preschool will remain open to all who wish to attend. If your child hasn't been attending but you want them to return, can you please let us know the week before you want them to return. At the moment we are running with less staff and will have to make arrangements to ensure we have enough people working to support the children's needs.



Fees

From 1st April 2021, in line with the National Living Wages increase we will be increasing our fees for preschool and 2-3 club.

Preschool will be £4.00 per hour.

2-3 Club will be £4.25 per hour.

Beetley Bears

Beetley Bears, our stay and play sessions at the village hall will remain closed. When conditions allow we will review the situation and let you know via Facebook, Family or email when we hope to run the sessions again.

Children's Belongings

As you are probably aware windows are kept open throughout the day at preschool to provide ventilation. We have noticed that some children are arriving in long sleeved t-shirts without any further jumpers or cardigans in their bags. The mobile does get very cold especially with the windows open. Therefore, please could you ensure that your child/children wear layers of clothing or have an extra jumper in their bag. Also please ensure that all their clothes are clearly named.

We know that many of you do this but some labels are written on and these fade over time making them sometimes hard to read. This would help us greatly at the end of each day when we try to match items to children. If you have mislaid an item please ask the staff to check our lost property bucket. Thank you for your help.

Website

The website is still up and running so why not take a look, www.beetley-preschool.org .

Facebook

We do have a Facebook page, so please look us up and like our page. We will use the page to share information on what we are doing, suggestions for things you can do at home with your children and links to useful websites.

New Build

We are delighted to tell you that Breckland District Council Planning Committee have given planning permission for our proposals for a new building on the playing field adjacent to St Mary's School!

Councillors met on Monday 25th January and listened to a presentation Chris Hobson the planning officer on our plans and explained the alterations we had made in the light of feedback we had received from residents. Di Calvert and Holly Metcalf, one of our parents, spoke on behalf of the preschool and the benefit it would give to the community as a whole. It was very pleasing to get unanimous approval from all of the councillors.

This is fantastic news and one step closer to our dream! However, we have always been aware of the restrictive covenant on the land which states that it can only be used as a playing field for the school and a car park. The land is owned by the Parish Council and in order for us to realise our dream we need to secure agreement from the Parish Council and other beneficiaries of the covenant to make a minor amendment to covenant to allow us to build on a small part of the playing field. We believe that using the land for educational purposes would fit with the original intention behind the covenant. We intend to work positively with the Parish Council to come to an agreement that allows us to continue to provide a valuable asset to the village. We still have a long way to go though.

Fundraising

Online shopping

At this time this may be the only way you can get what you want and need.

As you shop you could help raise money for the preschool.

You can do so by using "[easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk)". Follow the links below to register your support and a percentage of what you spend will be donated to the pre-school.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

or smile.amazon.co.uk. (when using Amazon Smile please search for "Beetley and District Pre-school", if you can't find us using our name put in Beetley as an area and we are listed) You can now get the

Amazon Smile App on your android phones:

1. Update the app on google play
2. Open the Amazon Shopping app
3. Tap the main menu on the app
4. Tap settings
5. Tap Amazon smile
6. Follow the instructions on the screen

Bags2School

Due to the current pandemic we have rearranged the Bags2School collection for Tuesday 20th April. Sorry for the inconvenience, but please keep anything you have sorted out for us until then. It really does help us raise money for the preschool.

Parking

I know this is something we mention each month, but we still have families parking in areas that make

it unsafe for children and also not taking local residents into consideration.

Please remember not to park on the zig-zag lines at the corner of the horseshoe, in the horse shoe outside the school or on the red rectangular areas marked out on Elmham Road. Please avoid mounting the pavement with part of your wheels or blocking the driveways of residents who live on the road.

Thank you.

Illness

If you or your child has a temperature; a continuous cough; or a loss or change of sense of smell or taste it is important that you inform preschool, isolate at home, do not send your child to preschool and that you get a test straight away. You can book a test by calling 119 or visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

If you are not sure if you should be sending your child into preschool because of the symptoms they have, use the link below for guidance.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/behaviour-and-attendance/attendance/school-attendance/when-to-keep-your-child-off-school>

Please also help us to reduce the spread of coughs, colds and sickness. Children are still likely to get normal colds, coughs and sickness bugs as the colder weather approaches.

If your child appears unwell before they come to preschool; you have given them Calpol; they have a green runny nose or they have been sick in the last 48 hours, they are not well enough to attend. Please keep them at home until they are better to avoid giving the illness to other children. Thank you.

If your children are going to be off could you please let us know either by ringing the Preschool on 01362 860860 or by email beetleypreschool@hotmail.com or by using the Family app to report them absent.

Collection Password

Please remember, if you need your child to be collected by someone new, this could be due to some unforeseen circumstance, an emergency or may just be a new person you have added to your list of eligible people, you will be required to obtain a password from the staff. The new person collecting will need to know this password before we can release your child into their care. This password will change on a regular basis.

NO NUTS

We would like to remind you that we have a NO NUT policy in place. Can you please make sure when you are packing your child's lunch box that none of the food contains nuts.

Thank you for your support.

E-Safety

Do you know how safe your child is when they are accessing youtube clips, playing games on the laptop, tablet or phone? Have you applied the necessary parental controls onto the devices accessed by your children? Many service providers offer advice of how to do this and sites like Childnet offer advice to parents about different online apps and games that your child may be accessing. The following two links provides help and advice if you should need it, about staying safe online.

www.childnet.com

www.thinkuknow.co.uk