



NEWSLETTER Term 3 January 2023

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Welcome to the New Year. We hope you all had a great festive break. This year we have started with a few challenges but hopefully we can work through these challenges and provide the care you and your families need. This newsletter will provide information on school strikes, school holidays, care plans, absences, our communication and activity survey, booking new P1's into the service, Fees and a really big one PARENTS SUPPORT FOR FUTURE SCHOOL CHANGES.

Strike Cover.

With the support of Westerton Church and the flexibility of the staff. we have managed to provide full day cover for the strikes. This has been popular, and I thank all the parents who have messaged us with their kind words of support. Hopefully the strikes will end with the desired outcomes for those involved.

School Holidays.

The school holidays this term if Monday 13th Feb to Wednesday 15th February. We will close at 2.30pm on Friday April and reopen on Monday. If you would like holiday care during these times, then please go to www.tascafterschoolcare.org.uk and under bookings you will find a link to book the holiday service which is based in St Ninians Primary School 2150 Gt Western Rd G13 2AB. The staff in the service can provide more information if you require it.

Care Plan Updates

In order for us to follow Care Inspectorate compliance and recommendations, we

update our care plans before the children return to the service in August and in January. We will send all parents the links to update these. Please remember if you have any change of contact details etc that you notify us immediately. I have been sending a lot of emails lately, can I ask you to ensure we have been sending them to your personal email address and that you have been receiving them. If you haven't, please let us know and we can add you to the database.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from the service, please can you let the staff know by sending a text to the service, or a phone call after 2pm. This saves staff valuable time at registration. This is preferable to emails as the staff have no access to the room before 2.30pm and have limited time to set up.

P1's starting in August

Please remember to go to our website to book any August starts. Places are on a first come basis with priority to those children who have siblings who currently attend. However, the cut off for this priority is Easter. If you have a child starting within the next couple of years, there is a booking form also online for this and I would advise submitting one as we already have had quite a few bookings for the next few years.

The future of the school

Like many parents I have been following the proposed changes for the school. I am unsure as to whether the school will remain where it is or be moved. After school care is a very important service for working parents, and parents need to be happy that the care provided meets their needs, and that they don't need to be concerned about their child's happiness and safety when at work. When reading about these proposals there has been no mention of after school care provision. It is important that this service is recognised and has an area within a school that the children feel is their own. We need consideration to be made for the storage of the services equipment and an

area for us to use and be able to provide snacks and activities. Many new schools are innovative and have a small office etc for our services and agreed areas and their own entry system etc. It is important that those involved in planning etc recognise the necessity for our service and the importance of learning through play and the availability of our service to support working families.

Many children attend the after school care for 7 years, and for many families with more than 1 child they have a relationship with a service for a lot longer. I am asking that our service is represented when consideration is made to any adaptation or a new build. This will be more successful with the help and support of our parents. Can I ask that any parent who wishes to support us in any way from sending an email to joining us with a meeting with the planners, we would greatly appreciate this. I am proud of our service, staff and users. We have worked hard to provide quality care and to continue to do so is to ensure that the accommodation that we are provided with or have access to meets the needs of the service and allows us to continue to be registered for the 90 children we have a present. Without a voice from the start could lead to difficulties in reregistering new premises as the legislation takes into considerations the areas that we will be using, safe storage of personal information etc.

SHANARRI

In the new term we will be working on SHANARRI indicator *Included*. We will encourage each other to think about how we include people in our community, as well as our friends.

Before the holidays some of the children made Christmas cards for people in Westerton care Home. They then delivered them personally and spoke about visiting more this year to play games, such as cards

and draughts. More information will be given in due course.

Some of the children have been using their time at after school care to practice their instruments and we have enjoyed listening as well.

This term we are looking forward to learning more about Burns Day, Chinese New Year and Valentine's day. A full list of celebrations and dates are displayed within the unit.

All Weather Play

Please remember as the temperatures drop, and the wet/icy weather comes we will continue to play outdoors. When the snow falls, we will be sledging so it is important to please ensure your child has appropriate clothing and footwear to change into.



Training

All current and new staff have updated their basic training and will continue with personal development throughout the year.

School Closure

The after-school care will be closed on the following dates, Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th February. In-service day Wednesday 12th February. If anyone requires childcare during the February break. Please ask for information.

Easter break Monday 1st April – Friday 12th April. Friday 19th – Monday 22nd April inclusive.

Fees

Please can I ask parents to ensure that their fees are up to date. Nobody likes to send emails regarding fees. If it's easier pay weekly. Fees are due 2 weeks in advance to avoid the need to ask for arrears to be paid. Please do not hesitate to see any of the managers Katie or KerriAnne should you have any queries regarding fees.

Please remember to join us on FACEBOOK. Also check out our website on www.happylittlepeopleafterschoolcare.org.uk where you can be kept up to date with all the latest information and dates for your diary.