

Very Important
Please remember whoever
picks up your child **MUST** be in
your child's 'own bubble'



**Please pay any
outstanding invoices
ASAP**

Newsletter February 2021

Well Done

Well done to all parents who have been so very brave with the 'settling in' process and dropping their child off at the door. Thank you to all the parents and carers who are wearing masks for visits and pick up/drop off times.

To all parents & carers,

Thank you for all your help and cooperation during this time whilst we are listening to the Government guidance and trying to stay safe from the coronavirus. Everyone has a completely different routine at the moment and Little Doves is no different. We are doing everything we can to stay safe for both children and staff whilst also acknowledging that everyone has different requirements.

Pre-schools seem to have been rather forgotten in all of the arrangements that have been made. We do not have access to home Covid-19 testing kits and we are told we need to work without distancing etc. As a result, many nurseries and childminders have been struck with Covid-19 symptoms and this makes it a very nervous time for us all to work. The staff are going at least weekly, sometimes more, to the Nightingale Centre to get tested and are doing everything they can to make sure that those children attending have the safest experience we can manage. A lot of the staff have gone above and beyond with their effort and time so that we can still open and I am so very grateful to them. I am also very grateful to the trustees who support us from behind the scenes and to Rev Julie who is praying for us all regularly.

Please continue to be mindful the more your child mixes the more the opportunity of cross infection risking all the families and staff at Little Doves - please keep your childcare 'bubbles' outside of Little Doves to a minimum.

Staff are trying to keep in touch with children who are at home so if you have not heard from your keyperson, please let me know - not all the staff are working at this time so this could be why.

I am really looking forward to better times when we can all enjoy being at Little Doves as we should. God Bless & keep safe, Pam

Illnesses and Covid19

Please tell us if you or your family are showing any Covid19 signs and need to isolate.

We are endeavouring to do all we can to keep all the children, families and staff safe from the coronavirus infection. We are following all the guidelines given to us from Essex County Council, Early Years Alliance and Department of Education. However, the virus is in the community and there may be times when we will have to close at short notice due to a positive test result. This is only done when we are instructed to do so by Public Health England. Please be aware that this is a possibility in all pre-schools and schools and try to have a Plan B for childcare if you are at work. Remember we could all have to isolate if there is a positive result if we are told to do so. We also have many staff with children at school and if we have a staff shortage due to families needing to isolate from those schools, this could also lead to us having to close the pre-school as we will have insufficient staff to open.

Of course, we hope this will not happen but we have already heard of settings where this has occurred. We thank you for your co-operation and understanding in advance.

Little Doves Quiz Night

We have just heard that £750 was raised from the quiz night hosted by Brentwood Rotary club. This is a fantastic amount and we are so very grateful. A BIG 'Thank you' to all of you who took part and made it such a success!! 😊

Transition to School

We are starting to do paperwork for our July 2021 leavers for transition to school. Please make sure you keep us up to date with any new information.

Healthy Lunch boxes please – only one sweet treat.

NO peanut butter as we have children with nut allergies



PLIMSOLS



Please can you bring your child into pre-school WEARING their 'preschool' shoes.

We are trying to keep staff from touching the children's shoes unless necessary.

We trust that you will keep these shoes only for Little Doves and not wear them outside of our location.

We are spraying shoes as children arrive and taking their temperature too.

30 hour Extended Funding Parents

Please apply **NOW** if you want to claim from April 2021. Registration cannot be back dated if you miss the deadline.

Facebook

Please remember to log in to our closed Facebook page to see photos of what the children have been doing. If you are not a member please send a friend request to "Friends of Little Doves".

April 2021 sessions

Please make sure that Pam knows any changes to your child's hours in April especially if your child is newly funded. There is some flexibility and we want to give priority to our existing children before allocating the remaining spaces to the new children starting.

SNACK TIME

Little Doves is supplying snack in the morning. **Please still bring in a named drink bottle.** This is an optional extra and we will ask for a contribution of £1 per day towards the cost of this.

Please continue to bring in a named drink and lunchbox if your child is staying for lunch.

Very Important

It is very important that you let us know if anyone different is picking up your child. Please fill in the correct Collection form and tell whoever is on the door who will put it in the Sign-in register. Also remember to tell the person picking up your child the password.

TERM DATES

Last day of Spring term: Friday 26th March 2021

First day back in Summer term: Tuesday 13th April 2021

*I would like to thank everyone for your patience and continued support with everything we have had to do to comply with all the changes this term.
With love & prayers, Pam & the Little Doves team*