

## 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".



## Correspondence

If you need to show Pam any evidence, e.g. birth certificate, proof of address or immunisation record please take a photograph and send it to her via WhatsApp.

## Newsletter October 2020

### 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.

The children are starting to run in by themselves, know exactly what to do and are settling in nicely. It is lovely to meet all our new families and get to know you.

You will be receiving little 'reports' or 'starting checks' from your child's keyperson.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who are wearing masks for visits and pick up and drop off times.

### Bentley St Pauls school has non pupil days on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October.

Please can you let me know if your child will **NOT** be attending Little Doves on these days as I have to organise the staff rota.

Please pick up between 2.15pm and 2.30pm on Friday 23rd October as we need to put everything away for hall maintenance during half term.

**Healthy Lunch boxes please.  
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.

### SNACK TIME

From after half term we will resume supplying snack and starting to do cooking with the children. **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. If you do not wish your child to receive the healthy snack, please provide a healthy snack and drink for them in a named container.

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

### 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.

### Dates

**Half term:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October  
**Last Day of term:** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
12.15pm

### Tempest Photographer

Proofs are now available for you to place an order. See Rowena or Holly if you have not received your child's photos. Orders can be placed online or via Little Doves. If you order online, please let Pam know.

### Half term Fundraiser Event

Please look out for our sponsored event for half term to help raise money towards improving and finishing the 'natural' area in our new garden.

We would very much value your support in this as we have not been able to do any of our usual fundraising activities because of lockdown. Every penny helps 😊

### Newly Funded Children Jan 2021

We **MUST** see your child's birth certificate to verify their date of birth.

### 30 hour Extended Funding Parents

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

### January 2021 sessions

Please make sure that Pam knows any changes to your child's hours in January 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.

### Little Doves T-shirts/Polo shirts

Thank you for all the orders. Please can you pay now for your child's uniform. If you are paying via bank please can you add 'Uniform' to the reference as this helps my administrator identify the payment.

### 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.**

### Suggested voluntary donation

The voluntary contributions were reduced this half term as, due to the current climate, we are not allowed to have our external education visitors and we were not able to provide a healthy snack. The voluntary contribution towards consumables has been increased to enable us to continue to provide all the educational materials we normally use alongside all the extra precautions that need to take place in the current climate. **Thank you if you have paid your voluntary contribution. We were very disappointed to see that so many of you did not see the value of paying this contribution. For the first time since we opened the amount not paid for these contributions was nearly £450. This will have a huge impact on what we are able to provide as a pre-school. We are a charity and need these donations to help us keep our standards. We do realise this is a tricky time for many families but even if you can contribute half of the suggested donation it would make a big difference to us. Every penny helps.**

### Let's praise and celebrate our children ...'WOW'

Please remember to praise and celebrate the successes of your child. After assessing the value to your child, the fact that paper has a low transmission of Coronavirus and that we are all in a 'bubble', we will be using contact books again so please consider where you store this when at home. If you do not want to use the book then we understand and will continue with the spare pages.

**With love & prayers, Pam & the Little Doves team**