

Please return your WhatsApp permission slips ASAP – it is a GDPR & Ofsted requirement that we have permission from you.

30 hour Extended Funding Parents

Please apply **NOW** if you want to claim from September 2022



Please pay your invoices ASAP – it takes up so much of Pam's time to repeatedly text you.

Lots of Little Doves T-shirts/Polo shirts in stock – see Pam

Newsletter March /April 2022

To all our parents & carers,

Welcome to all our new families who have started with us recently - it has been lovely getting to know you all. How wonderful it is to see the sunshine after a long winter - we had the gazebo out today for the first time 😊

This has been such a strange time to work in childcare. It is lovely we have been able to start getting back to normal however we are still struggling with illness in the children and staff. Covid has not gone away and now we are also dealing with all the normal illnesses such as tummy bugs and colds. Please remember if your child is sick or has diarrhoea, they need to be 48 hours clear from the last episode before returning to Little Doves. If you test positive for Covid, please still isolate as per the government's instructions.

Because of staff shortages due to illnesses, some days we are very stretched so PLEASE remember to pick up on time and PLEASE phone ahead if you are unavoidably detained. Staff have their own children to pick up and we have to be put away and out of the building promptly.

Little Doves is still advertising for supply staff; a suitable person to join our team who is flexible and can cover all parts of the day. If you can recommend anyone that would be wonderful. For more details see the advert on the reverse page.

You will have received an email/letter saying that our lunch club fee and half term voluntary donation will be increasing after Easter holidays to £4 and £20 respectively. This has become a necessity to meet our costs and to continue the viability of the pre-school. Because of the pandemic we have not been able to do our usual number of fundraising activities this year to help meet our overheads. A big thank you for all those who continue to pay your voluntary donations - it is these donations that make the difference to our day to day running costs. Please gift aid if you are eligible as we will be able to claim back £5 on every £20 donation from the government. Ask Pam for a form if you are eligible (a UK Tax payer) and have not done this already. I know we are all feeling the pinch but please support us with fundraising and pay your invoices otherwise the future of the pre-school could be compromised.

If anyone can organise a simple fundraising event, know of anyone who would like to give a donation or if anyone's company will do match funding, we would be very grateful. 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.

There may still be a time when we will have to close at short notice due to COVID or staff shortages. 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.

We thank you for your co-operation and understanding in advance.



Sponsored Easter Egg Hunt in outside garden

Sponsor forms going out this week – please ask family members and friends to sponsor your child. Money raised will go towards a new house/shelter for reading in the outside play area and the general fund.

Shining Stars Football

From April Shining Stars will be an optional extra and will be on your invoice. The children enjoy it so much it would be a shame to have to reconsider this arrangement.

Please check our lost property table and take anything that is yours.

Please remember to label your child's belongings!!!



Healthy Lunch boxes please – only one sweet treat. NO peanut butter as we have children with nut allergies.

This is as a good example of lunch content and the grapes are sliced too!



Dates for your diary

Term finishes: **Friday 1st April 2pm close – (we need to do a big pack away)**

Summer term starts on: **Tuesday 19th April**

Half term: **Mon 30th May to Fri 3rd June**

Summer term finishes: **Thursday 21st July**

NB - the committee room will be used for polling on 5th May. We will try to stay open in the main hall and garden.

Wonky' Wednesday

We open at **9am** and finish at **12 noon**.

'Wonky' Wednesdays next term:

May 11th, June 8th, July 13th

We do have some spaces for new children in September so please recommend us to your friends and family.

SNACK TIME

Please remember if you do not pay for snack then you need to bring a snack for your child. Snack is an **optional extra** not a voluntary donation. The £1 covers a morning snack of toast/cracker cheese ham, fruit and yoghurt. There is breakfast cereal available if your child arrives hungry and also snack in the afternoon of



fruit and breadsticks if they stay all day. So, it is good value - this is our fridge packed with fruit & snack. If you do not want your child

to have this you must remember to pack enough food for your child for the day.

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

April 2022 sessions

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

Children born between 1st April and 31st August will be funded in September.

Children born between 1st Sept and 31st Dec are funded in January.

Newly funded children **MUST** bring in a copy of birth certificate and proof of address to show Pam.

Important

Pam needs to see your child's red book to confirm immunisations.

Remember sun hats & sun cream (if allergic to LD one) for sunny days.

Please let Pam know if you have any holidays booked 😊

Supply staff needed for an immediate start (subject to references & DBS checks)

- ✓ To cover for sick/annual leave or other staff cover when required on a flexible basis and at short notice.
- ✓ Some experience with SEND children preferable or appropriate transferrable skills
- ✓ To attend staff training sessions and meetings as required.

Please contact: Pam at manager@littledovescp.org.uk for app forms, job des etc.

Children going to school in September will know their allocated schools in mid-April. Let me know when you hear. With love & prayers, Pam & the Little Doves team

Little Doves Christian Pre School Ltd is registered in England and Wales. Company No. 10551269 Reg Charity No. 1773085

Registered Address: 100 Longfields, Marden Ash, Ongar, Essex, United Kingdom, CM5 9DE. Mobile No 07756 029105.

Email: manager@littledovescp.org.uk