Welcome! 😊

A special welcome as we start our Autumn Term and we hope you all had an enjoyable summer. We offer a special welcome to all our new children and parents and pray your time with us will be very enjoyable. We welcome back our existing Little Lambs and hope they missed us during the holidays and are eager to return.

The first few weeks are very much a settling in process and if you have any questions or concerns please don’t hesitate to talk to us.

We continue to offer the 30 hours entitlement for working parents to our older children. Please don’t forget their packed lunches! Remember, we are a nut free environment.

We pray for all the children in our care, for those starting school and for those we know have current health issues. God bless you all.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your children.

Jen and the team

Staff News

Very sadly, due to continued ill health, Sandra Bloomer has stepped down from her role of Manager at Little Lambs, the role she has been in for 28 years since she founded Little Lambs with Mal. We value your continued prayers for San.

We are however delighted to confirm that our Acting Manager for the past 11 months, Jen Anslow, has now been appointed permanently to the role of Manager. Rachel Gibbon is now our Deputy Manager, and Lucy Watkins is a Senior Practitioner. We wish them all much joy in their new roles at Team Lambs.

Important Dates for your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th September &amp; Tuesday 1st October</td>
<td>Allotment trip for morning children (children to attend one session)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th October</td>
<td>Harvest Celebrations - morning children. 10.00am coffee - 10.30am service with children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7th October</td>
<td>Autumn Nature Walk at Leasowes Park (all morning and afternoon children and parent/carer). A separate letter will follow soon. If you do not do a Monday session and wish to do this, you can either book an extra session or swap. This is a paid session. There will be no 30hrs pm session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th October</td>
<td>Approx. 4.00-5.00pm (times to be confirmed) - discussion with afternoon parents - children’s two year progress check. (you will be advised if this applies to you nearer the time.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25th October</td>
<td>NURSERY CLOSED - INSET DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28th October</td>
<td>NURSERY CLOSED - INSET DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4th November</td>
<td>NURSERY CLOSED - INSET DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 14th November</td>
<td>Parents Evening - times to be confirmed (am &amp; pm children, excl. 2 year progress checks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15th November</td>
<td>NURSERY CLOSED - January Intake to Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th November</td>
<td>Road Safety to visit Little Lambs - morning children only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 23rd November</td>
<td>Christmas Fayre - 12.00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th December</td>
<td>Nativity for all morning children - parents/carers &amp; families welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th December</td>
<td>Celebration of Christmas for all afternoon children and parents and visit from Santa - End of Term session for pm children. There will be no 30hrs pm session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th December</td>
<td>Breakfast with Santa - morning children - normal session times - children only - End of Term session for am children 11.00-11.30am coffee and mince pies in church for parents There will be no 30 hrs pm session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu &amp; Fri 19th &amp; 20th Dec</td>
<td>Staff only</td>
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</tbody>
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Spring Term starts Monday 6th Jan for staff and Tuesday 7th Jan for am & pm children

Inside this issue:

- 30 hrs Afternoon Sessions
- Birthdays
- Healthy Snacks
- Collection arrangements/Times
- Outdoor Curriculum
- Parking
- Reminders - Smoking, phones, toys
- Sickness, Holidays & Absences
- Useful Resources
- Books, Story Sacks and CD Rom Lending Library
- Name Recognition
- Fees
- Music Time
- Trips & Specials
- Change of address
- Emergency Evacuation Policy
- Information Sharing
- Letters, notices and reports
- On-Line
- Parents Evening
- Progress Check Discussions
- Schools Admissions
- Uniform
- And Finally

Please Note:

Dates for Fire-fighters and Police visits to Little Lambs morning children to be confirmed - please keep an eye on weekly notices.
Outdoor Curriculum

As the outdoors is simply an extension of our curriculum here at Little Lambs, we would ask you to bring suitable clothing each day to allow your child to benefit from all-weather experiences as the opportunities arise. Outdoors is full of interesting and fascinating experiences where deep-level learning can take place on a daily basis.

Healthy Snacks at Café

We would like to remind parents of grant-funded children ONLY that a contribution of £2 a week is payable for a lovely variety of daily healthy snacks and fruit.

We would be grateful if the amounts payable (£14 for 4th Sept - 24th Oct and £14 for 5th Nov - 18th Dec, including Christmas Party) could be paid during the first two weeks of each half-term.

Please note, unlike schools, we do not receive a free fruit allowance from the government.

Important Reminders:

Smoking & Vaping

Bethel grounds and premises are no smoking areas. This includes both traditional and e-cigarettes. The boundary includes the area in front of the Little Lambs gates to a line between the front railings and the church wall. If you must smoke whilst waiting for your children, please do so on the public footpath and leave this recess smoke-free for parents, children & babies waiting at the gates. Thank you.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones must not be used once inside the nursery building.

Clothes

Could all parents make sure that they bring a spare change of clothes daily (needed for water play or toileting purposes)

Also could we ask parents to return any spare Little Lambs clothes they may have at home which they have borrowed

Toys

Please discourage children from bringing these from home. We have lots of toys already, and loss and breakage is always a possibility.

Sickness, Holidays & other absences

PLEASE make sure that you let us know as early as possible that day if your child will not be attending Pre-School for any reason.

This is an important requirement for all parents and carers.

If you have booked a holiday or a day out, please also let us know in advance by completing a Holiday Form - now also available to print online.

Birthdays

Children’s birthdays are celebrated within the sessions at Little Lambs. We would encourage parents not to bring in sweets and cakes as we feel this puts people under unnecessary pressure to buy for all children at an already expensive time. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Useful Resources

A useful document “What to expect, when?”, published by 4Children supported by Department for Education, is guidance for parents about children’s learning & development in EYFS and is available to download https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_Parents_Guide_2015_WEB.pdf

We thought you might also find the following website useful and interesting when looking for activities to do with your children at home:

The Imagination Tree - http://theimaginationtree.com

And this website has interesting information for the health of your children:


I’m sure you all wish to keep your children safe whilst they are using the internet. Below is a link to the NSPCC online safety tool to support you and safeguard your children:

NSPCC Online Safety - https://www.nspcc.org.uk/onsafetysupport
**Music Time**

We plan to continue this service (provided by a specialist music teacher) this term each Wednesday morning for all children who wish to participate in this session. The charge remains at £2 per session, payable in a one-off payment for the 7 weeks for this half term of £14. This can be paid anytime before the end of September.

**Collection of Children**

- Please note that if it is not yourself collecting your child, arrangements have to be made with Pre-School staff as to who will be collecting, and preferably, a password given. Please try not to be late in collecting your child, as this can be upsetting for the child, and also these are busy times to set up for the afternoon and to clear up at the end of a day. Obviously, in the event of an emergency, children are always cared for by staff until collection is possible, but please contact Nursery to let us know that there will be a delay, if at all possible.

- An important reminder that children’s safety on the nursery drive and the entrance foyer remains the responsibility of parents/carers both on arrival and departure.

- Can we also remind parents and carers not to leave children unattended in vehicles for short periods whilst dropping off/picking up, even close to the gates of nursery.

**Fees**

For any parents not receiving grant who are paying fees, could you please ensure that any money due is paid on your child’s first session of the week. Fees are payable weekly or monthly in advance if you prefer. Special envelopes for snack money, fees, music time, etc., are available to make collection of monies easier for all concerned. Please take them as required. They are in the box in the entrance. Cheques (only over £30 please, due to high bank processing fees) should be made payable to ‘Bethel Chapel’.

**Little Lambs Lending Library**

Little Lambs children will be able to choose a Library book each week to share at home.

The Library will be open for morning children on Friday mornings at 11.30am in Dove Room and for afternoon children on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons at 3.00pm in Sunshine Room.

If your morning child does not attend Friday sessions and you wish to access our library service, please speak to your child’s key person.

This will be an opportunity for parents/carers to choose a book or Story Sack to share with their child at home. The book/Story Sack should be returned to the nursery library the following week.

Please note - we only have a small number of Story Sacks available so they will be issued on a ‘first come first served’ basis.

**Name Recognition**

Please can you encourage your child to find their own coat peg each session, either by picture recognition or by name, and to hang up their own coat, instead of doing these things for them. Then please encourage them to select their name card and self register in their Key Group area.

**Trips & Specials this term**

<table>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Harvest Special</strong></td>
<td>Friday 4th October</td>
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<td>Morning children and parents</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Autumn Nature Walk</strong></td>
<td>Monday 7th October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leasowes Park</td>
<td>AM &amp; PM children &amp; parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Afternoon Parents two year progress check discussions</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 24th October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to be confirmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fire-fighters &amp; Police</strong></td>
<td>Monday 18th November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Lambs this term, dates to be confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Little Lambs Nativity</strong></td>
<td>Friday 13th December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(am children and their parents)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Celebrating Christmas</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 17th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>(pm children and their parents)</td>
<td>End of Term — pm last session</td>
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<td>(am children)</td>
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**Road Safety**

**Parents Evening**

**End of Term**

— pm last session

— am last session

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Letters and Important Notices

Please can any parent/carer who wishes to receive a second copy of any correspondence for a parent/carer living outside the family home please see Mal or Jen.
If you wish such correspondence to be posted out, please have the address and post code available.

Information sharing

If your child has done anything exciting during the week-end or holidays or has achieved a particular milestone, we would like to know so that we can talk about such an event with them. We have "WOW Moments - Parent Voice" slips for you to complete available in Nursery entrance or online. If you wish to include photos with some of these we would love to see them and they will be added to your child's Learning Journey to give a complete overview of your child’s learning experiences at Pre-School and at home, on outings and holidays.

If you would like to submit an application form for another child, please print out the last page of the Prospectus, complete and return it to Nursery

School Admissions - September 2020

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2020, you must complete an application either online at www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions or by completing a copy of the application form (available from 1st October) by 15th January 2020. Please contact Dudley Schools Admissions Service if you require any help - 01384 814223 or www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions

Emergency Evacuation Policy

A reminder that should we ever need to evacuate nursery for any reason, our policy will be to take all the children to Wollescote Primary School in Drummond Road to keep them safe and then to contact parents/carers to pick them up from there.

Change of Address & Contact Numbers

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you let us know immediately of any change of address, telephone or mobile contact details. Forms are available in nursery entrance for you to complete.

And Finally .......

Autumn is fast approaching and as at Monday 9th Sept it is just 106 sleeps ‘til Santa!!

Looking forward to enjoying the Autumn Term here at Little Lambs
Working together for the best for our children.