Welcome!

We extend a special welcome to all new children and parents as we start our Spring term.

Important Dates for your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 10th January</td>
<td>11.00am Early Talk Boost parents PowerPoint</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31st January</td>
<td>Library visit for am children - Sunshine Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 3rd February</td>
<td>Library visit for am children - Butterfly Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th February</td>
<td>Library visit for am children - Rainbow Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10th February</td>
<td>Letters &amp; Sounds session for parents - 10.15-11.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th Feb</td>
<td>Closed - INSET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14th Feb</td>
<td>Closed am - INSET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 17th - Fri 21st Feb</td>
<td>Half Term Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24th Feb</td>
<td>Closed - INSET Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28th Feb</td>
<td>PANTS training for parents - 10.30 - 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th March</td>
<td>World Book Day - Children to bring their favourite book both am &amp; pm, no costumes please</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday &amp; Tuesday 9th &amp; 10th March</td>
<td>Eve Shepherd, photographer, will be in Nursery for morning AND afternoon sessions. Brothers and sisters are welcome for photographs but please could you book a time slot for bringing them into pre-school. Eve is willing to take bookings early before school if required. If you don’t usually do a Monday or Tuesday you may like to book in for an extra session, or just pop in for the photo, but either way, you need to inform Mal or Jen. Thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th March</td>
<td>4.00pm onwards Parents discussion session for 2 year checks and afternoon children’s parents evening. You will be informed if this involves your child.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13th March</td>
<td>Closed - visits back for new children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th March</td>
<td>Afternoon Children’s Mother’s Day Pop-in Session (no PM session for 30 hours provision children on this day - to be collected at 11.30am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th March</td>
<td>Morning Children’s Mother’s Day Service – invitations will be sent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>4.30pm onwards Informal Parents Evening for morning children Please note nursery will finish at 3.00pm (See back page.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31st March</td>
<td>Last sessions at Lambs this term for am &amp; pm children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st April</td>
<td>End of term Easter Celebrations for all children including Easter bonnet parade, bike ride and sponsored walk around Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge to raise money towards new equipment &amp; to replace much-loved, well-worn toys!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1st - Mon 20th Apr</td>
<td>Easter Holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 20th April</td>
<td>Summer Term Starts—staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 21st April</td>
<td>Summer Term Starts—children</td>
</tr>
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- And Finally 4
We begin our term by focusing on our favourite stories starting with The Tiger Who Came to Tea and exploring Winter! In the second half of the term we will look at "How to keep ourselves healthy", Spring and celebrating Easter. Much of our planning follows children's ideas on a daily basis and their numeracy and literacy skills are enhanced by their individual interests.

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 Time

We would like to remind parents of grant-funded children ONLY that a contribution of £2.00 a week is payable for a lovely variety of daily healthy snacks and fruit. Please see noticeboard or online notices for daily menus.

We would be grateful if the amounts payable (£12.00 for 7th Jan - 14th Feb) could be paid during the next two weeks.

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

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.

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.

It saves us much worry and concern!

CCTV

We have external CCTV cameras in place around Bethel Chapel and Little Lambs Pre-School Centre for the prevention and detection of crime and for protecting the safety of staff and 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.

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, as this will enhance their independency skills within Nursery. Then, please encourage them to select their name card and self register in their Key Group area.

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.

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Trips & Specials this term

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library visits</th>
<th>Letters and Sounds Sessions</th>
<th>Mother’s Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Am children only</td>
<td>Mon 10th February</td>
<td>Pop-in Thu 19th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st Jan 3th &amp; 6th Feb</td>
<td>10.15-11.15am</td>
<td>for afternoon children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eve Shepherd, Photographer</td>
<td>Parents Evenings</td>
<td>Service Fri 20th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday &amp; Tuesday, 9th &amp; 10th March</td>
<td>PM - Thursday 12th March</td>
<td>for morning children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AM - Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>both 4.00pm onwards</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>both 4.00pm onwards</td>
<td>Easter Celebrations at</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 1st April</td>
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</tbody>
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Eve Shepherd, Photographer
Monday & Tuesday, 9th & 10th March
**Music Time**

We plan to continue this service 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 5 weeks for this half term of £10. This can be paid anytime during the next 4 weeks.

**Arrival & Collection Times**

On arrival, our gate and doors are manned by staff between 8.30am - 8.40am. Please try to arrive no later than this. If you are unavoidably delayed, the entrances will be locked, so please ring the bell on the gate and staff will let you in, but we need to keep arrivals after 8.40am to an absolute minimum! Our morning collection time remains at 11.30am. Please try not to be late as we have to set up for afternoon sessions. Thank you.

Afternoon arrival is 12.30pm and afternoon collection times are now 3.00pm for younger children doing 2.5 hour sessions and 3.30pm for all grant funded children accessing 3 hour sessions. Any parents who wish to collect their child slightly earlier for school pick ups need to inform Pre-School as a matter of urgency.

**Toys**

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

**Mobile Phones**

These must not be used once inside the nursery building.

**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/carer to pick them up from there.

**Parking**

A reminder to parents about parking at our busiest times of day on arrival and departure.

**Please DO NOT** double park or park on pavements. This is not only dangerous, but could result in the Police being called and cars being ticketed.

In addition, please do not block the entrances to the Church car park or nursery drive. Please be aware that the car park entrance is used by the church minibus, so please leave adequate space for it to reverse.

**Useful Resources**


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](http://theimaginationtree.com)
- And this website has interesting information for the health of your children: St John’s Ambulance baby CPR - [http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/first-aid-advice/first-aid-for-parents.aspx](http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/first-aid-advice/first-aid-for-parents.aspx)
- 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/onlinesafety](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)

**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 blue box in the entrance. Please can any monies less than £30 be paid in cash, due to hefty bank charges per cheque (this money can be better used by nursery!) Thank you for your co-operation with this matter. Please make any cheques 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 to share with their child at home. The book should be returned to the nursery library the following week.

Story Sacks are available on a 3 week rota system for each room. These can be borrowed during library time on Friday and returned on Monday as they are used during nursery sessions.

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

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Looking forward to enjoying the Spring term here at Little Lambs

Working together for the best for our children.