



# Autumn newsletter

**Hi everyone,**

I hope this finds you all safe and well. We've had a very busy start to the Autumn term and just wanted to update you all on what's happening

## **Staff changes**

Firstly, A big welcome goes to Toni and Ailsa who both joined us full time this week in our twos room. Both girls are fully qualified and come with lots of experience in working with two years olds, so we're really excited about the impact they are already making. Julia will be leaving the twos room at the end of this month to start her maternity leave. We'll miss you Julia and wish you lots of luck in the months ahead as you get ready to welcome your new addition.

We are also welcoming Alexandra into our baby team. Alexandra has lots of experience in working with slightly older preschool children, but is very excited to be adapting these skills to supporting our youngest children.

Sadly, Annabelle will be leaving us at the end of next week. Annabelle has been with us for over three years and has worked her socks off! She is a much loved member of the team and whilst all staff and children will be sad to see her go, we wish her lots of luck in her new role with Northumbria police.

Finally, Catie is coming to the end of her level 3 childcare qualification, having worked relentlessly on getting through this in record time. Bethy and Hannah have now started their training for this qualification, so we're delighted

to support them in working to achieve this.

### **Covid Management**

We've worked hard this week on tightening our procedures further within nursery to try as hard as possible to keep us all safe and free from Covid. Our existing procedures remain and additional steps have been taken to separate out age groups and keep staff solely working with one group of children. Separating out age groups means that I will be working solely in the older age groups and will not be with the baby team. Laura and Andrea will be on hand for any queries and questions from our baby parents, however feel free to message or call me at any time if you need to speak to me directly.

Thank you to the parents who continue to manage illness sensibly and responsibly at this time. We are relying on everyone playing their part. so keeping your children at home if they are unwell continues to be the safest approach for all of us.

### **Parking and traffic management**

I think most of you will have seen my note on social media a few weeks ago about trying to use our car park as much as possible for drop offs and collections and also trying to avoid using people's drives in West Thirston to turn cars around in. Thank you for continuing to be mindful of this and help us to develop a positive relationship with our neighbours.

We have been made aware of road works that will be happening on the road outside of Pumpkin Pie. These were planned to happen between 14th and 25th September, but obviously have not started yet. We're not too sure about the level of disruption that this may cause, but will update you as soon as we find out anymore.

### **Parent liaison**

We're finding it very hard not being able to talk to you as much and invite you in

to see what's happening! To try and help a little bit with this, we're upping the information being put on to social media giving you more snapshots of the day. We have also spoken about how we share more information with you about children's progress, so you should see their learning books coming home more with a summary review in there. We would be really grateful if you could add some notes into the parents box to show what you are seeing at home and talk to us about how we can further support your child.

In the next few months, we'll also be in touch to offer telephone review appointments for all of our children so that we can talk to you about how they are doing and what we see in nursery. If there's is anything more you would like from us, please let me know.

Thanks again for your continued support at the incredibly busy time. Despite everything that is happening at the moment, we are blessed with a bunch of very happy and settled children who are making great progress.

We've also been inundated with new bookings for future months and new immediate joiners. We're not far from closing our books to new children, so if you know anyone who is interested in securing a place, please feel free to give them a little prompt to get in touch with me before it's too late.

Thanks everyone and take care

Lucy