



Newsletter January 2025

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing holiday and we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. We would also like to welcome our new families to Hollytree.

As always, we have a fun and busy half term planned! Our theme for this half term will be "Let's Pretend". We will be looking at different people and the jobs they do. We will also be taking the children to the library, local shops and the cafe. Below is an idea of the different occupations we will be looking at:

- The Police
- The Fire Service
- Schools
- Doctors and Nurses
- Shops

The week beginning 10th February will be 'Stay and Play' week. We would like to invite parents in at the beginning of one of the sessions, 9.00-9.30, to see what their children like to play with at preschool and have a look through their Special book.

We would like to thank you for your co-operation with allowing children to come in independently. It helps us to settle the children more quickly and promotes their independence if they are encouraged to come into pre-school on their own. It can also get very crowded in the entrance foyer and can be quite overwhelming for the children if there are lots of adults in there. Please be assured staff will help your child to put away their things. We also ask that parents and carers wait at the top of the slope to collect their children at the end of the session. If you are dropping off at 12pm we do ask that you wait at the top of the slope with your child until all of the children who are leaving at 12 have been seen safely to their grown-ups. Once they have all been seen out you can then send your child down to the door.

A few reminders:

- We do use the outside area unless the weather is very bad so, please ensure all children have appropriate clothing including coats, hats and gloves which should all be named. It is also very helpful for us if you could practice with your child at home taking off and putting on their outdoor clothing and please put any hats, gloves or scarves in their book bags before they come in!
- If your child is due to start school in September 2025, the closing date for applications is **15th January 2025**.
- Illness – if your child has been sick or has had diarrhoea, please remember they must

be kept home for **48 hours** after their last bout. We also advise that if your child has a temperature, you keep them home. Paracetamol, for example Calpol, can mask symptoms but doesn't stop the spread of illness. If your child needs paracetamol we would advise you to keep them home.

- If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible on the first day of absence, by emailing info@hollytreepreschool.org.uk, telephoning 023 80741410 or calling/texting our mobile 07594 591935
- Lunch boxes – please can we remind you that we encourage a range of healthy foods in the children's lunch boxes so please do not send sweets or chocolates in them. Please make sure you provide your child with a manageable amount of food that they will enjoy and be happy to sit and eat. We do have a Healthy Lunches leaflet which can be seen on our website or if you would like a paper copy, please let us know.
- Water bottles – we ask that all children bring a named water bottle into pre-school each day filled with water, if possible, please or squash if they will not drink water.
- Snack – If your child is in preschool for the morning session, please can you provide a healthy snack for them to have at snack time. This should be in a named pot or bag which they can put in the snack tray.
- Toys – Please can we ask you to not allow your child to bring in toys from home. We noticed a steady increase in them last term! Toys can get lost or broken and can also cause arguments amongst the children. We have plenty for them to play with at preschool!
- Fees – all fees must be paid in advance; invoices are sent to parents at the beginning of each half term and can be paid by cash or bank transfer.
- **Day closure – Monday 27th January**: Preschool will be closed on this day

Please have a look at our website www.hollytreepreschool.org.uk. We also have a Facebook page which is used to provide up to date information and reminders.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The Hollytree Team.