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Rainbow Pre-School
& Extended Services



Rainbow Pre-School & Extended Services

NEWSLETTER

November - December 2021

UP-COMING DIARY DATES 2021/22

- 17th Dec 2021 – Last Day of Term
- 04th Jan 2022 – Closed, Teachers Training Day
- 5th January 2022 – First Day of Term
- 11th February 2022 – Last Day of Term
- 14th – 18th Feb 2022 – February Holiday Club
- 21st Feb 2022 – First Day of Term

Success Story...

We are delighted to announce that Vickie Sharp (Head), who for some time now has been studying for the necessary qualifications to become a Childcare Lecturer within the Further Education sector, has been successful. Vickie has worked at Rainbow for 10 years building her expertise and knowledge to be able to progress her career in this way, therefore, sadly this means that Vickie will be leaving the employment of Rainbow Pre-School & Extended Services on Wednesday 11th November. Vickie will be missed enormously but we wish her the very best in her new role.

For the past three months Vickie has been handing over to Hannah Adams, the manager at the East Site, who will become the Head of Teaching and Child Development, working across both sites. Hannah is a qualified primary school teacher and we are lucky to have her leading the childcare team. The new manager at the East Site will be Kirsty Colley, Kirsty joins us with a proven track record of not only managing early years settings but also owning her own nursery for nearly a decade. We are excited to welcome Kirsty to the team and are keen to see what the future holds.

Useful Information

West site:
Rainbow Pre-school & Extended Services
Nursery Building, St Andrews Lower School VC
Brunts Lane, Biggleswade, SG18 0LY

East site:
Rainbow Pre-school & Extended Services
St Andrews Lower School VC
Bantock Way, Kings Reach, Biggleswade, SG18 8UQ

Website: <http://www.rainbowpre-schoolbiggleswade.co.uk/welcome>
Email: enquiries@rainbow-preschool.co.uk
Tel: 01767 310230

Extended Services has become extremely busy; therefore, your booking form needs to be with us no later than midday the Friday before the following week. However, we have very limited spaces available this term. Booking forms for the rest of the academic year are available to download from our website.

bookings@rainbow-preschool.co.uk

REMINDERS

A GENTLE REMINDER, PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD IN WITH A WATER BOTTLE FOR USE DURING THE SESSION. WE PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH DRINKS THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND USE PYREX TABLEWARE TO HELP TEACH THEM INDEPENDENCE. WATER BOTTLES ARE EASILY USED BY OTHER CHILDREN WHILE THEY ARE THIS YOUNG AND ENCOURAGE THE TRANSMISSION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES. IF YOUR CHILD IS HAVING A PACKED LUNCH, YOU CAN OF COURSE PROVIDE A WATER BOTTLE IN THEIR LUNCH BAG OR BOX. WHILST WE HAVE ACCOMMODATED BRINGING IN WATER BOTTLES DURING THE FIRST HALF TERM AS THE NEW CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SETTLING, WE WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTING THEM ON SITE.

STARTING SCHOOL SEPT 2022 APPLICATION CLOSING DATE:
15TH JANUARY 2022

DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty during the covid-19 pandemic we have decided to cancel any arrangements for Christmas events which involve visitors in order to protect the welfare of all the children, families and staff at Rainbow. We will, instead, ensure we plan lots of festive celebrations, activities and crafts with the children and perhaps a few surprises too! We hope to be able to plan a social event nearer Easter and be able to invite you all onsite when the weather is kinder! Watch this space....



Covid-19

As you are aware we are experiencing high numbers of Covid-19 in our settings following increased numbers in Biggleswade. Therefore, we have added additional measures again to reduce the risks of transmission and have been liaising with Health Protection England

- Follow all current government guidelines relating to Early Years Settings
- Handwashing on arrival and throughout the day
- Increased cleaning procedures during set times of the day and careful consideration of resources and activities available to children
- Continue to teach the 'Catch it, kill it, bin it' approach.
- Continue to keep children and staff at Pre-School in consistent groups with allocated play spaces both inside and outside.
- Bubble children attending extended sessions from St Andrews in year band groups and separate from Pre-School children.
- Staff will once again wear masks to meet you outside our premises and recommend you do the same.
- Ask you to maintain 2m social distancing as much as possible.
- Visitors will be limited to essential maintenance or for SEND or Safeguarding purposes.

Whilst we acknowledge that there is no requirement to test children under the age of 5 years old, the HPE officer has made a specific recommendation for our setting that where a member of your household or family unit is unwell or demonstrates Covid-19 symptoms you ALL seek a PCR test and remain at home until you receive the results. This measure has been explicitly requested in order to break the current pattern of transmission at Rainbow. Seeking PCR tests for the entire family helps to identify any members who may be asymptomatic and ensures all reasonable precautions are taken to protect the children in our care, your families and our staff team. The safety and welfare of all involved in daily life at Rainbow continues to be of up-most priority to us.

Core Values.....

This half term we are exploring.....

Collaborative – 'We work together'

Rainbow Preschool and Extended Services received a very kind and generous financial donation of £250.00 from Asa Herbert, Director of **Pro Assist Property Services LTD**, based in Bedford. We plan to use this money to purchase resources to support specific developmental needs including communication, turn taking, cause and effect, listening and attention skills and sensory input.

A HUGE Thank You from everyone at Rainbow!

What we are learning this half term.....



Each half term our activities and learning at pre-school will focus on one of the 7 areas of learning and development outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) along with a constant focus on Communication and Language across the year.

Our focuses this half term are:

Physical Development

(inc fine motor and gross motor skills)

Communication and Language

Book for Pre-School Children (Butterflies and Sunbeam Room) – 'Stick Man'

Book for Toddlers Children (Caterpillars and Raindrops Room) – 'Off to the Park'

Both books can be purchased on Amazon

Home Learning Challenge.....

Research has proven that children are much more likely to achieve their full potential if pre-schools and parents work together in partnership to support learning and development. Therefore, each half term, we will provide you with a 'Home Learning Challenge' Book with an activity to complete as a fun way of involving families in our pre-school focuses. This is one way for you to contribute to the assessments of your child's learning and helps us plan what is next for them! Please encourage your child to take part and hand your child's book back into their key worker.

The Home Learning Challenge this half term is:

East Site Caterpillar Room – choose your favourite music or rhyme with actions, send us a video on EyLog of you dancing or singing and doing the actions to a song. We can't wait to see you move!

East Site Butterfly Room – Using a hole punch or scissors make small snips or holes on a page in your Home Learning Book. Then see what you can thread through the holes you have made, try wool, string, ribbon or pipe cleaners.....whatever you have at home will be fine. Let's get your fingers working!

Sunbeam Room - Using resources from around your home see if you can make your own obstacle course. Please upload a video or picture of you using your obstacle course onto Eylog.

Raindrop Room - Please upload a video or photo onto EyLog of you taking part in a physical activity. This may be at the park, riding a bike, kicking or throwing a ball or trying to climb the stairs at your home.