*Chipmonks Preschool*

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***NEWSLETTER Autumn Term 2025***

The aim of our newsletters is to keep you informed and updated on key events, dates, and information you may need to know. A copy of the most up to date one can be found on our parent information board and on our website**.**

**Term dates:**

**Wednesday 3RD September – Friday 24th October 2025**

**Monday 3rd November- Friday 19th December 2025**

All term dates can be found on the parent information board at our gate entrance or on our website.

*“Firstly, we would like to welcome all our families new and existing, it’s lovely to see so many friendly faces again 😊 The children are all settling amazingly into preschool, and are enjoying getting to know their surroundings, staff, and routines.*

*This Half term our curriculum supports: Ourselves/families, and Autumn. We would love to hear if you have any family traditions, celebrations etc that we can share with the children to extend on their learning whilst discussing “ALL ABOUT ME”. One of our main intents while following our curriculum will always be, to “follow the children’s interests” so if your child is showing a particular interest in anything at all please let us know so we can extend and explore any further learning opportunities, it doesn’t matter if it has nothing to do with the current curriculum/topic, every day is a learning day”. 😊*

**Parent Consultations:** Every week each key person has a “FOCUS” key child that they will observe. This allows Practitioner’s time to focus on a child’s progress, interests, and next steps of development. **Throughout** the term All parents will receive a “planning for your child’s learning journey” sheet, which gives parents an opportunity to share information. This information allows practitioners to help develop any areas of concern, extend further learning with any significant events that may have happened at home and to support children both at preschool and home. Attached to this sheet is an additional sheet for you to add photos of anything you would like to share of your child doing/places visited etc. Can we ask parents to try and add photos to this sheet (if you really need to email the photos, **they must be on one a4 “word document” that we can just print**. Any emails with photos just attached individually will not be able to be used, unfortunately we do not have the time to cut and paste each photo individually onto a word document to print, bearing in mind we could receive up to 60 emails a term of photos. Once your child has had their focus week, their key person will make a parent consultation appointment with you, to discuss your child’s overall development. (Termly).

**Time to chat:** As a setting we have made the decision to make sure that every opportunity to catch up with parents is utilised. We have members of the team (if not all), that come out to catch up, and chat from **8:35/8:40** every morning, **12.00** and **14.40**. Please use this time to let us know anything at all, whether it be your little one didn’t eat breakfast, had a late night, or they had gone to the zoo for the first time……. absolutely anything!!!!!!! ITS GOOD TO TALK!If you want to make an appointment at any time, please speak to a member of staff who will happily book a meeting. Non urgent messages can be written on our communication slips provided and left in our communication basket found outside our entrance gate. We strongly encourage that parents chat face to face with the practitioners about any queries rather than send emails, this allows us to build stronger parent partnerships, have a chance to talk and the honest fact that we do not always get to look at emails during the day and would spend a huge amount of time replying to things that can be mentioned at drop off or pick up.

**Drop off times. Preschool opens at 8.45. It is very important to your child’s routine, and development that they arrive on time…… Once all the children are in from the queue the gate is closed promptly, as we need to register the children and reopen the garden for play asap. All children arriving after the gate is closed will have to go to the main front entrance door and WAIT (please do not ring the doorbell) At 9 o’clock a member of staff will come out and open the front door (This will be the last opportunity for the door to be opened).** We understand some families have other schools runs but answering the door to so many individual drop offs after 8:45 and members of staff having to leave the children/room up to a further 6 plus times, causes much upset to children trying to settle and needing extra support from an adult. By having an alternative later drop off time of 9am reduces any unnecessary upset and creates a later drop option for those that can’t make 8:45. This will be the same for 12 o’clock drop offs, we will not open the door again after 12! (There is no school drop off like the morning that should be affecting a 12pm prompt drop off). Please feel free to speak to our management team if you have any further questions. Thank you for your understanding 😊

**Children due to start School September 2026:** The application window is now open for children living in Milton Keynes who are applying for: A reception place (For children born between 1st September and 31st August 2022.

Link to apply: [Starting primary or junior/middle school in September 2026 | Milton Keynes City Council](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-primary-or-juniormiddle-school-september)

When to apply: The citizen portal opens on 2nd September 2025-Closing date: Apply by 15th January 2026

National Offer Day: 15th April, National offer day is when you will be notified of your child’s place that starts in September 2026, if you applied by the closing date. Schools of interest will either have open days or will be happy to book visits if you wish to look around before applying/submitting your application. We would recommend looking on school websites for this information or calling the school of choice office.

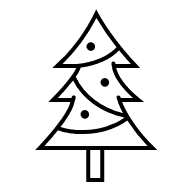
**Absences/monitoring of Absences:** All Absences must be texted or emailed into preschool within one hour of the time your child would be expected in. If we have not had any communication, your child’s key person or the Designated safeguarding lead will call, this is in line with local safeguarding partnership requirements, procedures and contact protocols for children who are absent or missing from the provision.

**Poor/Irregular attendance:** Whilst attendance at an early year’s setting is not mandatory, regular poor attendance will be followed up by management. We would like to remind that in the case of funded children, the local authority may use their discretion, where absence is recurring or for extended periods, considering the reason for the absence and impact on the setting. Funded children must come to preschool for a certain percentage level to be able to claim funding. Poor attendance may result in the setting not being able to claim funding and an invoice for payment is needed.

**Dates for Diaries:**

**Stay and play week commencing: Monday 24th Nov- Friday 29th November 2025 (times tbc)**

We are going to be running a stay and play week, this will allow 1 parent/carer from each family (the other parent can pick another time slot if they wish on a separate day) to come and play and explore the setting together, this will give parents the opportunity to share your child’s current interests, attend activities or just have a fun time sharing a book together. A booking system will be available on the white notice board after half term to confirm your interest/day/time you would like to attend. Unfortunately**, no siblings** can attend this event.

**Last week of Christmas at preschool (week commencing 15th Dec 25)****:** This week we will be having a Christmas activities/fun week. Each day will be a different fun day so that children can experience the Christmas cheer and celebrations no matter what session they are due in. Children are welcome to come in Christmas outfits this week.

**Sing around the Christmas tree Thursday 18thDecember:** Our sing around the Christmas tree concert will take place on Thursday 18th December @13.45. An invite with more details will be handed out after October half term break.

**Staff /Training**: All staff have recently completed Food standard Agency training in: Food Allergy and Intolerance training.

**Polite Reminders**

\*Children must come to preschool in **weather appropriate** clothing and footwear. **EVERYTHING MUST BE NAMED PLEASE**. (This includes **every** coat, hat, gloves, spare clothes, welly’s that you send in). A bag with clothes/nappies if needed and **MUST** come into preschool EVERYSESSION. If wellies are worn on way to preschool, please change footwear to normal footwear before entering preschool.

\*Due to the busyness at the end of the day, we are unable to update all parents about every lunch time/food eaten etc. We will only update parents if your child has NOT EATEN WELL, DOESN’T LIKE SOMETHING OR THERE IS ANY OTHER ISSUES/CONCERNS. If you do not hear from us, that will mean that your child has eaten well and there is no information to relay back. Look out for little post its in their boxes for any little messages we want to relay reference lunch.

**Lunches**: Could we remind parents that as a preschool we would like to encourage parents to supply a **healthy lunch**. Please visit our website for healthy lunch box tips and portion size guide. ALL FRUIT MUST come in lunchboxes PRE-PRECUT INTO SAFE NON-CHOKE-ABLE PIECES – Practitioners are not able to cut up to “30” plus different pieces of fruit at this time of day and must prioritise watching and supporting the children eating safely.

**Birthday Celebrations**: Following the new Eyfs requirements, preschools are to promote Healthy eating habits throughout. We can no longer except sweet treats to be brought in for birthday celebrations and ask that a healthy option is supplied in its place if you wish to do so.

\*Session times are 08:45- 11:45,12:00-14:45 or 08:45-14:45. We ask ALL parents to arrive **5 minutes before collection**. If you are running late, you must call preschool to inform us at least 10 minutes before the end of your child’s session**/ A late fee will be charged to parents who are late regularly.**

\*If your child has had any kind of medicine within 24hrs, you **must** tell a member of staff. (This is crucial information that we must know if we were to have to call an ambulance in any kind of emergency). Unfortunately, Children who have had Calpol or ibuprofen type medicines during the night or on the day of their session will not be able to attend!!!, This is due to not being unable to judge your child’s health as the medicine could possibly be masking any symptoms.

**Change of address/contact details/allergies/medicine:** Have you informed us of any changes to any of the following- home address, mobile numbers, new/old allergies your child has, different medication prescribed/stopped? It is vital that all essential information and relevant documents are kept up to date. So please inform us ASAP If So

**30HR FUNDING** Please refer to childcare choices.co.uk to see if you are eligible. Can all parents in receipt of 30 hr funding ensure all renewal dates are kept to and new codes/expiry dates are emailed to [chipmonksbp@yahoo.com](mailto:chipmonksbp@yahoo.com)

\*Chipmonks safeguarding policy can be found on our website: www.chipmonkspreschool.comChipmonks Preschool Ltd are totally committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and young people in our care.