

Together from the Start



*Nursery School*



# Summer Newsletter 2017



Together we will make a Difference



Nursery School

## *Hello to all our children, families, service users & service providers*

Witamy wszystkich, Hola a todos, Hello Mindenek, Failté, Guten Tag, Ciao a tutti, Hello ਹਰ ਕੋਈ, خوش سب کو

A very warm welcome back to all our children and families and especially those who are new to Highfield Nursery School. I hope you had a happy and healthy Easter!

## *Thank you for making me feel so welcome!*

I was very excited and privileged to start as head teacher at Highfield over the Easter holidays. Thank you for making me feel so welcome. I can already feel such warmth from parents and children here at Highfield. I have spent a little time with the children and I can see that they appear to be very happy and confident and they have made me feel very welcome. I plan to spend more time within the classroom over the next few weeks.

The Nursery Setting is at the heart of our work and we constantly aim to further engage and involve parents/carers in their children's learning.

We are committed to supporting and extending children's development and learning, by offering a play based curriculum.

With your support we can build on what children already know, understand and can do, and celebrate their achievements together.

I hope you find the information in the Newsletter useful and informative.

Sue Conron -  
Headteacher



# Staffing Updates

You may have noticed a few new faces around nursery and I would like to keep you up to date on the current staffing situation.

## **Louise Cheetham - Assistant Headteacher**

I would like to give a warm welcome to our new Assistant Headteacher, Louise.

Louise is an outstanding practitioner who has worked with children and families for over 12 years. She will be working across both Highfield and Duke Street and her main priority is to improve the outcomes for children. Louise will be supporting practitioners in the nursery to improve the quality of teaching and learning and make it even better than before.

I hope you will get the opportunity to meet Louise over the next few days.

## **Elaine Dennard - Business and Finance Manager**

I would like to give a warm welcome to our new business and finance manager, Elaine.

We are very lucky to appoint Elaine who has a wealth of experience and knowledge in this area, she has a drive and a passion to get things right and to help the nursery run seamlessly.

## **Aimee Woliter & Gemma Devlin - Office Administrators**

Both Aimee and Gemma have kindly offered their help within the office at Highfield.

Both ladies currently work in the office at Duke Street nursery school and so have experience with the procedures and the systems here at Highfield.

## **Bethany Nicholson – Office Apprentice**

We are pleased to say that Bethany is starting her working career here with us at Highfield.

You may have already seen Bethany on the desk, Bethany works 5 days a week for 12 noon until 6pm and she started just before the Easter break.

## **Doreen Lear – Office Administrator**

Unfortunately Doreen is away on long-term sickness due to an accident at home.

We hope you will join us in wishing her well and a speedy recovery.



## Attendance

Bringing your child to nursery everyday is very important to us, and even more important to your child. Children settle so much quicker and their confidence blossoms further when they are here everyday and are familiar with the routines.

The government are investing a vast amount of money funding your child's place and they want to see that it has benefitted them. The more your child attends the nursery the more we can help and guide the progress they make. Over the next few weeks we will be monitoring your child's attendance level.

If your child is going to be absent please ensure you inform nursery in advance.



## Session Times

To support the learning and development of all the children and to minimise disruption at the beginning of each session, please could all parents ensure that children are dropped off and collected at the following times:

### Morning Session

**08:55 - 09:10**

Please could children be dropped off no later than **09:10** as group learning sessions begin at this time.

**11:50 - 12:00**

All children have a story at the end of the session and so we ask that parents do not arrive any earlier than **11:50** as doors will only open at this time.

Staff are given 30 minutes to have their lunch between 12:00 and 12:30 and so it is important that children are collected at **12 noon**. Children who are not collected at this time will join lunch club.

### Afternoon Session

**12:30 - 12:45**

Please could children be dropped off no later than **12:45** as group learning sessions begin at this time. If your child arrives later than this they will be missing some valuable learning time.

**15:20 - 15:30**

For safeguarding reasons we need to reduce the number of parents going in and out of the nursery during session time, children also have a story with their friends, at the end of the session so it important that they are not collected before 15:20. We understand some parents collect from primary schools so if this is a problem please speak to Sue or Natalie and we can arrange a convenient time for you. Children who are not collected by **15:35** will be placed in the care of after school club.

As of 19th May 2017 there will be a charge for children who are collected late and who access lunch and after school club.

If there are exceptional circumstances and the above times are not suitable for you or your child, feel free to come in and speak to us and we can discuss other options to meet your needs.

# Staying Safe and Protected

Working in partnership with our parents/carers we help children to keep themselves safe and to understand the importance of feeling safe. Protecting your child is paramount. Being aware of safety is something that comes gradually to your child.

Young children are vulnerable and develop resilience when their physical and psychological well-being is protected by adults. They have little sense of danger and only learn to assess risks with help from adults. Learning to say 'No' is part of learning to keep safe.

A child can be neglected through no fault of the parent if the parent isn't supported in their understanding of their role & also the difference they can make when engaging with agencies and by working together they can improve the quality of their child's life and their own life.

Our focus is on care and not neglect. We work appreciatively with families to improve the quality of care and reduce the impact of neglect. Through positive engagement we can empower families to make positive changes to their lives and share examples of success whilst working together for children, young people, families and the wider community.

When children receive warm, responsive care they are more likely to feel secure and valued and to want to contribute to making the rules which make things 'fair' for everybody.

Explaining boundaries, rules and limits to children helps them understand why rules exist. Giving children choices helps them to learn that while there are several different options they can only choose one at a time.

When children have consistent boundaries for behaviour, at home and in the Setting, this helps them feel confident because they know what is and is not acceptable in either place.

Reading stories and poems about everyday events is a good way of helping children to focus on who they can trust and how to keep safe. However, being over-protective can prevent children from learning about dangers and about how to protect themselves from harm.



## Some Key Road Safety Messages for children:

Traffic is dangerous because it is fast and hard. It can hurt you very badly.

Always hold hands and stay on pavements! Look and listen for traffic.

## WE'RE ON FACEBOOK



Search 'Highfield Nursery School Chorley' for all the latest news and updates as well as all the events that are going on at Highfield Nursery!

## Keeping children safe online

Children love using technology and are learning to navigate websites, online games, ipads and smartphones from a young age.

Below are some useful websites that provide information and tips to keep your youngest children safe online:

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

[www.parentport.org.uk](http://www.parentport.org.uk)

[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

[www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)

Please speak to a member of staff if you need help or advice about online safety.

## Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

At Highfield our whole School Child Protection Policy provides clear direction to staff and others about expected codes of behaviour in dealing with child protection issues. It makes explicit the School/Centre commitment to the development of good practice and sound procedures. This ensures that child protection concerns and referrals may be handled sensitively, professionally and in ways which prioritise the needs of the child.

At Highfield Nursery School we recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, peer support and clear lines of communication with trusted adults helps all children to stay safe.

The Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy & Procedure is available on our website.



## Learn the Underwear Rule

The NSPCC Underwear Rule is a simple way to help keep children safe from abuse.

It teaches children that their bodies belong to them, they have a right to say no, and they should tell an adult if they are upset.

If you require more information please speak to a member of the staff.

You can also visit the NSPCC website at [www.nspcc.org.uk/UnderwearRule](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/UnderwearRule)



## Enjoy and Achieve

Working in partnership with parents/carers, Highfield Nursery School promotes the learning and development of all children to ensure they're ready for the next phase in their education.

Play comes naturally and spontaneously to children. Here at Highfield Nursery School children are very fortunate to have plenty of space and time to play both outdoors and indoors. It's a place where children feel confident, are willing to try things out and know that their efforts are encouraged and valued.

Our outdoor environment provides a safe, secure yet challenging space for children. The space is planned and organised in such a way that children can easily access quality resources, make choices and develop friendships. The 'all year round' outdoor environment offers children freedom to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant.

When children have opportunities to play with ideas in different situations and with a variety of resources, they discover connections and come to new and better understandings and ways of doing things. Your support as parents/carers combined with the support of Early Years Practitioners enhances the children's ability to think critically and ask questions.

Our outdoor play area is open daily, whatever the weather, so please consider appropriate clothing for your child. It is really helpful if you label all your child's outdoor clothing.

Holly Raw, Natalie Buksh and Victoria Fenton our Early Years Teachers alongside our Early Years Practitioners are always happy to talk to you about your child and their learning and development and aim to share information with you on a daily basis.

We feel it is particularly important to share the School Improvement Plan with you - Priority 1 - Improve provision for children with EAL to ensure that they make at least 'good' progress in the area of Communication and Language. Priority 2 - Develop monitoring and evaluation system's that include active involvement from governors. Priority 3—Improve the standard of teaching to ensure that it is consistently 'Good'.

Please speak to a member of staff in your child's Key Worker Group if you are unsure about anything and/or would like to share information with us about your child's learning and development.

Please also inform us of any changes in your circumstances which may impact on your child's well-being.



## Healthy Cooking Ideas

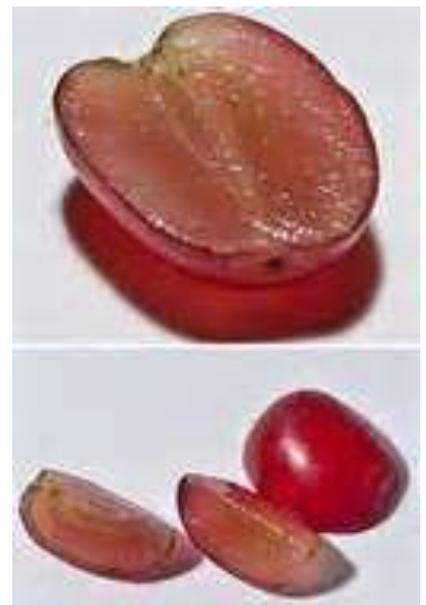
Today's busy lifestyles mean that many of us don't prepare our own foods as much as we did in the past. One of the down sides of this is that 'ready made' foods tend to be higher in fat, salt and sugar. Here are some Healthy Cooking ideas for you to use at home:

- Preparing food with children provides a great learning experience. It helps them learn about tastes, colours and textures and will help them be more enthusiastic about eating a wide range of foods.
- Use fats sparingly in cooking and choose oils such as olive, sunflower or soya instead of lard, butter or margarine.
- Grill, oven bake or microwave rather than frying.
- Try gradually reducing salt added to cooking and at the table.
- Use herbs, pepper and other spices to flavour food rather than salt.



## Food Safety

*It's lovely to see children's healthy packed lunches and snacks. Please be careful with certain foods that are given to your child. Lots of children love to eat grapes which is great, but they are a choking risk. Please make sure that you cut grapes length ways into quarter pieces.*



## Visit our website...

...for all the latest news and events at  
<http://highfieldnurseryschoolchorley.co.uk>

Our interactive site will enable us to give you lots more useful information and keep you up to date with all the exciting, new things happening at Highfield Nursery School .



At Highfield Nursery School & Children's Centre we aim to work with all parents/carers to ensure all children access quality services and we are always happy to receive feedback regarding any part of our service.

In the event of a concern or complaint please speak to a member of staff.

We will celebrate compliments & success with you all. We will deal with your concern/complaint honestly, politely and in confidence and will keep you up to date with any action that we have agreed to take.

Ofsted registers and inspects childcare for children.

You can contact Ofsted about your child's childcare by writing to them at:

Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD

You can telephone Ofsted on: 0300 123 1231

or you can email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)



**As from 1st April 2017, the wellbeing prevention and early help centre will be taking over the Children's Centre through the delivery of the neighbourhood centre at Highfield.**

**For more information please do not hesitate to come in and ask at the nursery reception.**

# Can you help us to help children?

## We have governor vacancies....

Can you represent the views of children, young people, parents/carers members of the wider community who access services and living in the local community?

The Governing Body of Highfield Nursery School consists of Local Authority, Parents, Community and Staff members. All 16 members have an important role in supporting the Headteacher to lead and manage the Setting. Members meet twice a term to address an agenda covering a wide range of topics.

Members of the Governing Body are from a variety of backgrounds, and offer different points of view. Their individualism and impartiality is channelled to achieve the very best for our children and families. Their work is entirely voluntary, it is undertaken with community spirit & their commitment to:

- i) Provide the best possible access to early years education and child care for our children.
- ii) Deliver specialist support where needed for parents/carers and family members.



Our Governing Body consists of 3 Local Authority Governors, 4 Staff Governors, 5 Parent Governors and 4 Community Governors.

**If you would like to know more about becoming a School Governor please speak to any member of staff. We would welcome you on board!**

## Have your say...

Parental involvement is very important here at Highfield.

We would love to hear from you about all the good things the nursery has to offer, and anything we could do to make it even better.

A Meet The Parents event will be taking place on:

**Tuesday 16th May 2017**

**9am - 3:30pm**

## 30 HOURS FREE NURSERY EDUCATION

As some of you may know some children will be eligible to 30 hours free nursery education from 1st September 2017.

There is a criteria for this eligibility and it only applies to children the term after their 3rd birthday. We need to now as soon as possible if your child is eligible and which sessions you require.

September is fast approaching and we need this information to plan provision for your child.

If you require any support or have any questions please do not hesitate to ask Sue, Natalie or Elaine.

*Coming soon...*

## Weekend Workout!

Some parents have requested we give activities for them to do at home with their children. We love this! Learning is best done through play and so we will provide some weekly activities that you could try at home.

Children could bring photographs or artefacts related to the activities for them to share them with their friends at nursery.



## **Term Dates for Summer 2017**

**Nursery School Closes at 3.30pm on Friday 28th April 2017**

**All Services Closed Monday 1st May 2017 May Day Bank Holiday**

**Nursery School Re-opens Tuesday 2nd May 2017**

**Nursery School Closes at 3.30pm on Friday 26th May 2017**

**All Services Closed Monday 29th May 2017 Spring Bank Holiday**

Continuity of Care is available from Tuesday 30th May 2017 until Friday 2nd June 2017.

**Nursery School Re-opens Monday 5th June 2017**

**Nursery School Closes at 3.30pm on Wednesday 19th July 2017**

**Thursday 20th July until Monday 24th July - Staff Training**

Continuity of care is available from Thursday 20th July until Friday 26th August 2017.

**All Services are closed on Monday 28th August 2017 August Bank Holiday.**

Continuity of Care continues from Tuesday 29th August until Friday 1st September 2017.

Throughout holiday periods quality Continuity of Care is available. Numbers are limited and places can be booked through a member of Cool Kids Club.

# Together from the Start



*Nursery School*



The children have been as busy as always learning lots of new things. They have recently been learning about mini-beasts and how to care for them. The children are amazing at finding the smallest of insects from tiny baby snails to long worms.

We have recently purchased some bilingual books in a variety of different languages, the children are learning how to use these and are listening to stories/words in the languages. The children are learning and celebrating that they have similarities and differences to others.



Some of the children have shown a real interest in shapes and have been exploring them in a variety of ways. Outdoors the children have been using natural materials to represent the different shapes they see everyday.

Some of our children are now in their last term with us before they move on to primary school. During this term we are going to be working really hard to prepare your child for their next step in their education. Learning expectations are high in reception and we want to make sure that your child is ready for this challenge. We are going to be doing this through play and fun activities, regular phonics sessions and providing lots of mathematical experiences.



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Website: <http://highfieldnurseryschoolchorley.co.uk>

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