



Dear Parents and Carers

** December 2020/January 2021 Nursery Update **

We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and New Year! We know that this year has been very different, and somewhat challenging – so we thank you all for your support, encouragement and for working so well with us. You should all be very proud of your little ones who have adapted, settled and continue to explore, create and play with huge smiles on their faces every day! Each and every one of them are a credit to you all.

A welcome to our new families who will be starting in January, we cannot wait to get to know you all 😊 . We understand it may be an apprehensive time for you to start your little ones, especially as our settles are so different to what we all like and are used to – but to reassure you we have had children start throughout the last 4 months under the same restrictions and have all done amazingly. Your key person and all our ladies will be here to support you and your little one every step of the way!

Christmas:

We have been advised this year to ask parents not to send cards in from their children to their friends. It is to minimise the risk of potentially passing the virus from one household to another. We are all rather sad about this as we know the children love to give and receive cards as it all part of the lead up to the big day. You can however send cards into nursery that we can display in the rooms, we are just unable to transfer cards from one home to another.

That being said, we wanted to send a little bit of reassurance that Christmas at Friendly Fish is far from cancelled and we will still be helping to provide a magical time for all your little ones... and for us as well of course 😊

Our pre-school children are all practising their Christmas songs for us to make a recording of them throughout the week commencing 14th December. We will be recording most days so hopefully we manage to capture all your little ones in fine voice. Just a reminder we have given out permission slips for us to post on Face Book for you all to see. If you have not returned your slip, please could you do so before 1st December. If you need another, please do ask and we can print one out for you. Currently all permission slips that have been returned give consent for us to share on our Facebook page so you can all watch at your leisure or watch around work commitments too 😊 We will of course update you all if for any reason we have any objections.

A reminder that we will be having a **Christmas celebration week for the whole week of 14th December**. This way no matter what session your little one is with us on they will be able to partake in something extra special on any given day – so no one misses out 😊

Christmas jumper day will be on Friday 11th December 2020, again please feel free to come dressed in your best Christmas jumper/t-shirt, again if we could ask no removable accessories it would be appreciated.

January Invoices: As you are aware from our fee increase letters sent out at the beginning of November – your invoices will be going out on the 15th December which is of course early. The 3rd of January payment date will remain; we are not requesting early payment. If some of your December payments have not cleared with us by the time we send the invoices out please don't be alarmed when it says what is still owed for December on your invoice if you know you have paid (remembering some voucher payments can take up to 10 working days to clear). We will ask that anyone who has outstanding payments for December that you know have not been paid, to ensure that this is paid ASAP despite the Christmas festivities.

Fee Increase & Meal Contribution for Fully Funded Term Time spaces – A reminder that the fee increase will take effect on your January invoices.

Term Time Fully Funded children will also receive their first invoice for their meal contribution charge on 15th December, as per normal invoices, we will ask this is paid by the 3rd January 2021. As you will not be used to making payments to us – payment info can be found on the bottom of your invoice.

Next steps: You will receive your child's updated next steps in January 2021, please have a read through and let us know if you have any questions 😊 this is a great opportunity to share with you what we are working on with your child in each area of their learning. Don't forget some things they may be able to do at home, but we haven't seen in the setting yet – as you can't access parent observation slips at the moment – please just drop an email if you have any observations, pictures etc to share 😊

Progress reports: These will be with you during the month of December, as you are all aware, we are unable to partake in parents evening at the moment, and there is just far too many of us and you to be able to do these virtually with any meaning or sufficient time for everything we would wish to discuss. We hope these snapshot reports will give you a nice little update and continue to build on our communication with you at this different time.

Facebook Page: If you haven't already, please don't forget to like our Facebook page! We put regular updates on there as well as pictures and videos of all the fantastic activities we get up too! Also, we would love any reviews from you all on the 'review' section of the page, if you have a spare couple of minutes! 😊

Children transitioning rooms changes due to Covid19: If your child is due to move to the next age group, we have had to revise how we do this due to government guidelines. Our old procedure included a variety of visits each week for a month to the next age group. This unfortunately cannot happen as it would mean mixing age group bubbles, we will be speaking to you individually if your child is affected, as transitions will be immediate at this time. We are very lucky that the children know all the staff which will help make the transition easier and wherever possible we are moving children in small groups so they go up with friends. We have had children move rooms already and they have all settled quickly and are enjoying exploring

their new surroundings. Staff are being extra supportive with these children and making sure they are quickly settled and feel comfortable in their new surroundings.

Dates for your diary:

December Dates: Christmas closure days: 25th December, W/C 28th December inclusive.

All year-round families return from: Monday 4th January 2021

Term Time only families from: Tuesday 5th January 2021.

February Half Term is W/C 15TH February 2020 for the week. Returning Monday 22nd February :)

Advanced notice - Christmas 2021 closure week: W/C 27th December 2021 inclusive

Once again, wishing you all a very Merry Christmas from all of us, to all of you!

Kind Regards,
Natalie, Debs and the Nursery Team