



Barn Owls Pre-school, Parsonage Croft, Burwash Road, Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7BY

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October 2023

Dear Parents

Where has term 1 gone? I can hardly believe that we finish for the October break tomorrow when it feels like we have only just returned from the summer!

Unwell Children

The setting has been full of coughs and colds for the last few weeks. Please see below an extract from our Welcome Information:

'Parents are asked not to bring their child to pre-school if they are unwell.

If a child seems unwell, we will take their temperature and if the reading is 38 degrees or above we will call you to collect your child. We will also call and ask you to collect if we feel your child isn't well enough to be at pre-school or is struggling.

If your child needs Calpol or equivalent before pre-school then they shouldn't be attending the setting - please keep them at home that day. If your child has had sickness or a tummy bug, they should not return to the setting until 48 hours after the last episode.'

Non Attendance

If your child doesn't attend the setting when we are expecting them, please notify us by email or phone as soon as you are able to. It is part of our Safeguarding responsibilities to make sure everyone is alright so we will be in contact if we haven't heard from you! Thank you for your help.

Outside Play

After enjoying an extended summer through September and the beginning of October, it looks like Autumn has finally caught up with us.

As we all go outside to play every day (unless unsafe to do so) please could children come to the setting with warm and/or waterproof, named coats and shoes. We have lots of all in one outfits, but they aren't always as waterproof as we would hope so if you have your own it would be a good idea to bring them!

If your child comes to the setting wearing wellies, please could they also bring a pair of shoes to change in to.

Toys from Home/Show and Tell

Please could I ask that **all** toys from home and show and tell items are placed into the Treasure Box if possible and not left in bags on pegs. The Treasure Box will usually be outside the door at the beginning and end of the day but will come inside if the weather is too wet!

To ensure the safety of all children, please could parents make sure that there is no food, toys or medicines in children's bags and backpacks – other children's bags are irresistible to some of our children! Any medicines, including inhalers, should be given to a staff member at the beginning of the day. This includes lip balms and creams. Thank you for your help.

Drinks and Snacks

Please could I remind parents that children should only have water in their drink bottles. Children have unlimited access to water throughout the day and also have the option of drinking milk at snack time.

Thank you for continuing to bring in an item/s for snack bar each week. We welcome any healthy contributions! Please check to make sure that dried items in particular aren't high in sugar or salt – the traffic light system is very good for this. We also don't give the children dried fruit at snack times to protect their dental health.

School Dinner Menu

I am enclosing the new school dinner menu for Terms 2 – 4. The price of a meal remains at £2.85 and please could parents ensure that their child's dinner money 'pot' is kept topped up. Thank you.

TERM DATES 2023-24

Term 1: Monday 4th September – Friday 20th October

Term 2: Monday 30th October – Tuesday 19th December 2023

Term 3: Thursday 4th January 2024 – Friday 9th February 2024

Term 4: Monday 19th February 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024

Term 5: Monday 15th April 2024 – Friday 24th May 2024

Term 6: Monday 3rd June 2024 – Friday 12th July 2024

Monday 3rd June – No School Dinners Available

Please note that the pre-school term dates are not exactly the same as school term dates. This is because pre-schools are funded slightly differently from schools and for less weeks per year.

If you have any questions, worries or concerns whatsoever, including Safeguarding or online safety please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Helen Packham
and the Barn Owls Team

