



## September 2019

Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a lovely summer break. Those 6 weeks have really sped by, before you know it, it will be Christmas!

A big warm Sunshiners welcome to our new starters and welcome back to our current children!

As this is the first newsletter of the school year, we will try not to bombard you with too many pieces of information. (Try being the ultimate word here!)

If you haven't already, please like and follow our Facebook page, it's a great tool that acts as a reminder about upcoming events.



### Committee changes

We have a few new faces among our newly elected committee including a new chair and vice chair.

David Ballantine has stepped up from vice chair to take over as our new chair and Michelle Roberts has taken the position of vice chair.

### Staff changes:

We have a new faces to add to our Sunshiners family.

First off we have Sue Amatiello who will be our new deputy manager, and we have Vanessa Richards who will be a new pre-school assistant.



We have a new furry assistant called Sonny. Some of you may have met Sonny before the end of Summer term. Sonny is Sunshiners new pre-school dog. He is a golden retriever and has already completed his first lot of training and is already booked in for his next!

Along with all the wonderful new members, we also sadly have to say goodbye to our pre school assistant Fay Rowley who is leaving us. She will be greatly missed and we wish her well in her new adventures.

We have had a busy Summer holidays, with all the walls being repainted, and a few new purchases in the setting.

We have also changed the signing in register to run alaphabetically from the children's first name (previously it ran alphabetically from surname).

When hanging up coats on the pegs inside the setting, you will see there are 3 white racks, please look for the rack that has a picture of your childs keyworker on and hang their coat accordingly.



### Questionnaires

A few months ago we sent out a questionnaire and were over the moon with the positive responses we received.

Some of the feedback we received:

It's a fun and safe enviroment, Staff work really well together as a team, staff are very welcoming, approachable and friendly, our facebook page acts well at reminding parents of things, it's a friendly and safe environment for children, children always come home happy.

Our only construcitve feedback that came back about changes was about the smallness of our reception area and about how it would be better if you could be better informed about what your child has done at preschool that day.

At present there isnt a lot we can do about the size of the reception, however we have put in building plans for an extended reception room for Summer 2020.

We are going to trial having a little board up each day which will list some of the activities that have been on in the setting.

We will always listen to any suggestions put to us,we took on board a lot from our previous 2018 questionnaire results and inputted a number of changes because of it, including: More reminders for children to drink, emailing out the academic calander so it makes everyone aware of half terms and inset days, adding extra staff consultations so more chance to get one on one time with

keyworkers, updating our facebook a lot more regularly.

### Staff Training Update

Our Staff are always trying to further their knowledge and understanding by attending new courses and workshops. Here are just a few they have been on lately :

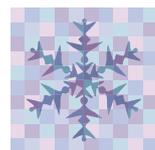
Annette is partaking in a speech and language course.

Jen, Sue and Claire P have just attended First aid training.

Sonny has just completed his puppy taining classes with Catherine Tomlinsons puppy school.



Please can you ensure that your child's lunchbox is named. Also please be aware that Sunshiners is a **NUT FREE Zone**. Please bare this in mind when making packed lunches. Peanut butter, Nutella & Kiwi-fruit are all prohibited products so please do not include them. Thank you.



As the weather will soon be getting colder and wetter it is now necessary for children to have a **NAMED**, warm, waterproof coat with them at pre-school. We operate a free flow system which allows your children to go out to play regardless of the weather. Once the weather requires it could we also ask that they bring a warm hat, scarf and gloves too (also named).



If possible please leave a pair of wellington boots at pre-school so that your child can use them for outside play during adverse weather and of course for use in our mud pit and mud kitchen areas. They do end up getting just a tad messy, especially with our newly fitted water pump.



We kindly ask that each child brings in a piece of fruit, a vegetable or a craft item (e.g. glitter, shaving foam, coloured paper/card) on each session they attend. A fruit bowl is always on the table next to the Sunshiners to place these items in.

You may have also seen our donation tree in the reception area. This is a tree full of leaves that have items written on them for resources we currently need.

A massive thank you for all your donations since we started the tree last year.



We currently use Tapestry Online Learning Journal to record your children's development, observations, next steps and to share photos of your child's time at Sunshiners.

For new parents Log in details for your child's Tapestry account will be sent out shortly. You will receive these details in an email from Tapestry, not Sunshiners, so **please check your junk folder** if you haven't received anything. We are still in the process of adding parent's details to the system so don't panic if you haven't yet received it.

If you're having any trouble logging in to see your child's progress or have any questions at all please don't hesitate to ask a member of staff. If you have any issue then parent tutorials can be found here: <http://eyfs.info/forums/topic/46927-contents-page/>

We hope you enjoy viewing your child's progress and photos and please add any observations, photos or videos on that you think are relevant, the staff always love to see what their key children have been up to when home"



Your children are welcome to bring in their own drink of water to have at Sunshiners, if you are finding that they are not drinking enough

during the day. But can we ask that they are clearly named and contain **only plain water** please. Any juice etc will be tipped away and replaced with water (this does not apply to their lunch box drink). We also have an outside water fountain and water is freely available to your children throughout the session.



If your child is going to be absent from pre-school can you please ensure you telephone the pre-school before the start of the session, to inform them that your child won't be attending or send us an email.

Please also make us aware of any holidays, we are sure you don't want us ringing you whilst you're enjoying the sunshine on a nice sandy beach!



When dropping off and collecting children can all adults please ensure their mobile phones are kept in a pocket or bag and are not used within the pre-school. This is for safeguarding reasons and staff will challenge anyone who doesn't comply.



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Last year we had a fabulous year of fundraising, just to update you on the final 3 events of the year:

**The Glitter Run 5k**-Thank you so much for the generosity you showed us, we raised an incredible £820 which we will be splitting 50/50 with St Margaret's hospice. We are still finding glitter everywhere even now!

**Summer Fete**-What can we say? You guys absolutely smashed this event, we raised an

incredible £966.77-The cold buckets of water in the stocks were so worth it!!

Our final event was a cake sale at Bridgwater nationwide building society which helped raise £158.

We are always open to ideas of fundraising so please come forward with any suggestions! No matter how crazy or daring they may be!

We would not be able to achieve these successes without your unwavering support so once again thank you very very much!!



Can you please ensure that all uniform, clothing, coats etc are labelled with your child's name please? Last term we had a lot of jumpers go missing so please always check the labels!



If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea please keep them off pre-school until **48 hours has passed since the last bout**. This is important to stop sickness bugs spreading.



Please remember to sign your child in and out of the pre-school with an exact time. This is a requirement of OFSTED and is very important to ensure we comply.



We have an open door policy at Sunshiners. If you ever feel you would like to discuss anything with us please do come in and speak with a member of staff. We are always available to help.

## Useful Information



<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk>

A new national campaign has been launched by the Government with ideas to support children's learning at home, or as part of everyday activities like catching the bus or doing the shopping. Families will get ideas on how to use everyday opportunities, like going to the shops and playing make-believe games, as part of a relentless society-wide effort to improve the early literacy and language skills in the years before children start school.

## Operation Topaz

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/partners/nspcc-o2-online-safety-partnership/>

Operation Topaz, NSPCC will be teaming up with o2 to raise awareness of Child Exploitation. If you as a parent, or parents that you are working with are not tech savvy, you can walk in to any o2 shop and seek support around parental controls. You do not have to use the o2 network- this service is available to everyone regardless of the phone's network provider. This will be a great addition to any safety plan, with parents proving that they are pro-active in safeguarding their children and a chance to learn more about keeping their child safe online and on their phones.



## Starting School in September 2020

16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 the application for starting schools goes live!

Parents and carers of children due to start school in September 2020 can apply using the on-line application form. The Admissions & Entitlements Team would be grateful for your help in raising awareness by reminding parents to apply. This is very helpful as unfortunately we no longer have the resources to send letters to individual parent/carer's home addresses. The deadline is 15 January 2020 and with the increasing demand for school places it is more important than ever that parents make an on-time application.

Parents can apply by visiting [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions) or by contacting Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 if a paper application form is required.



## Healthy Eating

Did you know that healthy eating habits developed in the early years can set a child up for good health in later life? Children need a diet made up of foods from the 4 main food groups, in the right balance and in portion sizes just right for them.

Your child will need about this number of portions across the day from each food group:

Starchy Foods x 5-a-day

Fruit & Vegetables x 5-a-day (or more)

Dairy Foods x 3-a-day

Protein Foods x 2-a-day\*

So much for keeping it short hey?

Until the next one guys.....



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Half term:**

**28<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>RD</sup> November 2019**

**Christmas break:**

**23<sup>RD</sup> December 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Inset day:**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

*Further inset days to be confirmed in the next newsletter.*