

# Spring Term Newsletter

January 2022

## Coronavirus Update

As you are all aware the COVID situation across the country continues to change rapidly so we wanted to update everyone with the current policies in place regarding COVID and Brambles childcare. (Please be aware this can change in line with government guideline updates)

Firstly, please continue to keep your child at home if they are showing any signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and request a PCR test.

Secondly, please do not send your child to Brambles if they have tested positive on a lateral Flow test. New rules now state that people who have a positive lateral flow test without COVID symptoms, no longer need to have a PCR test to confirm they have COVID. Instead, they automatically start isolating for 7 days from their positive result and they should report their positive result to the government website to allow track and trace to follow up contacts. If your child receives a negative lateral flow test on day 6 and day 7 (24 hours apart), then they may return to attending brambles childcare.

Thirdly, in order to protect others in Brambles, please do not send your child/children into Brambles if a member of their household tests positive for COVID. Your child may return after the family member finishes isolating along with a negative lateral flow test result on your child/children. In this situation where your child did not have COVID but was not allowed to attend brambles, a credit note would be provided for any sessions that had already been paid for but not received.

We also wanted to inform you of our contingency plans if COVID affects our workforce. Our priority would be to stay operating as normal however, if staff sickness levels meant we are unable to provide safe staffing levels then limits would have to be placed on numbers of children attending. In which case priority would be given to children of key workers, vulnerable and SEND children. The children we could not accommodate would be asked not to attend until staffing levels were back to safe levels. Those that were asked not to attend would be provided with a credit note for any sessions that had already been paid for but not received.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Brambles.

Thank you for your continued understanding in the challenging circumstances at the moment.

### Opening Times-

Playgroup: 9.00am – 11.30am and 12.30am – 3.00pm

Lunch Club: 11.30am-12.30pm

Fun Club: 7.45am – 9.00am and 3.00pm - 6.00pm



## Spring and Summer Term Dates

2021-2022

### SPRING TERM

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Spring Term Starts

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February Last  
Day Before Half Term

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup>  
February 2022 Half Term

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 Last Day  
of Spring Term

### SUMMER TERM

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April Summer  
Term Starts

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May May Day

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
June Half Term

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June Term Starts

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July Last Day of  
Summer Term

Registered charity: 1175924  
Ofsted URN: EY560544

# Teddy Bear Room Update

We welcomed lots of new children into the Teddy Bear Room in September so we spent the first few weeks settling them into the room, getting to know them and their families. An 'All about me' board was displayed with photos, handprints and information about each child, the children enjoyed the photographs that were sent in from home, it sparked a lots of conversations and reassures the less confident children at times to show them familiar pictures.

A big topic we covered was 'Autumn.' Some activities included:

- ☺ Small parts & Playdoh
- ☺ Creating our own pumpkins with Pens/Collaging
- ☺ Mark marking with Autumnal objects
- ☺ Autumn tactile tray which included Conkers, Pinecones, leaves and a pumpkin.
- ☺ Autumnal scavenger hunt to Bluntisham fields/park

In October the children started Forest School, the children who join us in the forest have loved these sessions and gained a lot from this experience. Staff are often asked 'Are we going to the forest today?' throughout the week. At Forest school we have:

- ☺ Hunted for bugs
- ☺ Built dens and "campfires" with leaves and sticks
- ☺ Used mud and water to make yummy 'food' in the mud kitchen

The children in our room currently have had to grow up during the peak of COVID and we know a lot of them have missed out important social opportunities like, baby/toddler groups and visiting family. As a result of this being part of a group is a big learning curve which we are supporting on a daily basis. Social development skills we are prompting are turn taking, sharing and confidence in playing alongside others in group. We have gradually introduced short group times such as register or an interactive story sack (our current favourite is the Hungry Caterpillar) and all children are at a point where they will participate which is fantastic!!!

Interests recently are vehicles. we have spent lots of time building train tracks, racing the small cars, diggers in the sand and exploring our vehicle talking boxes to promote language.

Dear Zoo has been a popular book, we made a story basket with all the animals to use as props alongside the book. The farm is a set of toys which is requested weekly, we are learning about where animals live and the names of the baby animals!!

All the staff and children really enjoyed our end of term Christmas party!!

Forest School starts  
again in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of  
February!



# Pre-School Room Update

Autumn is the start of the new academic year, and this brings changes for everyone. There is a period of adjustment as children settle back into structured routines and get used to spending time away from parents after a long summer break at home.

As the children are now pre-schoolers, they will have moved rooms and be working with different members of staff. Importantly, staff and children need time to get to know each other and build relationships. For this reason there will be a good range and variety of toys and activities available, to help staff better understand each of the children's interests, personalities and abilities.

The main difference children will notice is that more time is spent as a group doing 'carpet time' activities than before. For example, the children will be used to sitting down as a group and listening to a story, but now they may be asked questions afterwards.

There will be adult-led activities, discussion and learning opportunities covering the specific areas of maths, literacy, understanding the world and expressive art and design. For example, this term we've learnt about our teeth and going to the Dentist. Carpet time promotes confidence and team building as well as improving concentration, listening and reasoning skills; all of which are designed to help them prepare for Reception. Topics will also be covered through books, craft, songs, games, role-play, movement or tasks.

Things we have done this term:

**All about me** – Things I know about myself. In what ways are people the same or different to others?

**Feelings** – Can I identify my different moods and feelings? What makes me happy? Do I understand the feelings of others?

**Brambles' rules, British values and good citizenship** – Establishing what the rules are and why rules are necessary, keeping safe, making friends etc.

**Autumn** – characteristics of the season, looking at changes in nature – e.g. growth, decay

**Forest School**

**Visiting the park and field** – Autumn observations, playground/physical development/sport

**Counting and numerals** – group counting up to and beyond 10, numeral matching 1-10, numeral recognition 1-10, subitising 1-6 (with dice and dominoes)

**Common 2D shapes**

**Art** – looking at self-portraits of famous artists, recreating Monet's 'Poppy Field' painting

**Mrs Honey's Hat** – listening and comprehension, participation story, days of the week

**Dental Health** – personal care & hygiene, healthy eating, role of dentists

**Remembrance**

**Diwali** – understanding differences in culture and belief, sharing new experiences

**Halloween**

**Children in Need**

**The Nativity and Christmas celebrations**



# Fun Club Update

At the start of the new term in September we welcomed a lot of new children that had either moved to the area or had started in the Foundation class. They have all settled in extremely well.

The children have had an input to our new display boards, covering Diwali, Halloween and Fireworks and also a Christmas Display, including making many decorations. The staff have also set up a "What Children say" board, which has some wonderful quotes on it.

The children have enjoyed playing Twister, draughts, Chess, Uno, Wii games, doing puzzles, board games, cars, dolls house along with lots of drawing and colouring and chilling watching their favourite DVD's .

Outside play is a real favourite for many of the children, where they love to play football, ride bikes/scooters and make amazing concoctions in the mud kitchen.

A big thank you also to the many donations of resources that we have received, especially bikes, scooters and outdoor equipment. The children now don't have to wait so long to share the resources.

We are now looking forward to the Spring term and the suggestions from the children for new activities.

Thank you for your continued support

Fun Club Staff



## Fundraising Update

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our events over Christmas by buying Raffle Tickets, Santa buckets or coming on the Elf Hunt. We were able to raise a whopping £800 which will go towards our outdoor area improvements. I would also like to thank the staff and fundraising committee members for giving their time to help with these events. As Brambles Childcare is a charity, they really boost our ability to provide new resources for our children. Look out for our upcoming events including cake sales and a special Valentines event too. Fingers crossed we even get to hold our Easter Fair!

Thank you!

Lucy and the Fundraising Team

## Treasurer Update

The new online client portals are now fully up and running. The portal allows each family to see their up-to-date account information. This includes invoices, payments, and statements. However, it does exclude any 'free' LEA hours.

Please contact Hayley on [treasurer.brambles@hotmail.com](mailto:treasurer.brambles@hotmail.com) if you require login details or have any account queries.

# We Need You!

We are looking for new members to join the  
**Fundraising Committee Team!**

We help to support Brambles Childcare by raising money at different events throughout the year. The money we raise helps to enrich the environment and learning of the children.

We really need new members so please get  
in touch:

Speak to a member of staff, email us  
[fundraising.brambles@hotmail.com](mailto:fundraising.brambles@hotmail.com) or  
message us on the Brambles Facebook page.

### Contact Us:

Phone: 01487 843466

Address: Colne Road, Bluntisham, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 3NY

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

### Find Us:

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