

Welcome to the new academic year. We are thrilled to have so many new and returning families this year. There are a lot of changes happening so please read this newsletter carefully.

### Staffing

There are a few changes to our team and their roles:

Lou has joined the Sunflower team to support the children moving up as well as to cater for our growing numbers.

Caitlin has reduced her hours. She will be working afternoons to provide one to one support and provide lunch cover with Jo for the Sunflowers who will be accessing the 30 hours entitlement.

Katie is joining the Ladybird team. Katie is an enthusiastic, experienced and skilled practitioner and we are delighted to be welcoming her to the team.

We are also recruiting for another member of the Ladybird team. We have had over 100 enquiries about the post!

We will continue to support volunteers and students so you may see different faces from time to time.

### Curriculum

Some of the team have been involved in 'In the Moment Planning' training with the inspirational Anna Ephgrave. This is something the playschool will be embracing wholeheartedly. This means that the staff will no longer forwards plan for learning. They will be promoting learning 'in the moment' and following the children's learning as it occurs.

We will be having focus children each week. We will be asking family members to come along to meet with key workers to discuss learning before and after each child has had their focus week.

We welcome any comment and compliments about this approach.

You will notice some changes to the environment. We will be encouraging the children to access the equipment they require to develop their learning. We have also been working very hard to develop our outdoor spaces. Both the garden and field will be accessed every day so please be prepared for very messy children. We will be encouraging children to take risks in their learning, whether this is trying something new or climbing and developing physical skills. The team will be embracing some outdoor training in the coming months for us to be able to use fire within the setting.

Karen will be developing our outdoor curriculum to encourage our children to embrace the natural world. This will mean growing their own food to prepare and eat to learning about sustainability and taking care of living things.

### Our Environment

The equipment provided in the grounds of the playschool is for our children. We ask that other family members and people passing through respect our surroundings by taking care of the equipment. If there is any damage, we will stop collection from the playground. Family members will be responsible for the cost of any breakages and the playschool is **not** liable for any injury caused by misuse of our equipment.



### What do I need to bring?

Please ensure your child has spare clothes and are prepared for the elements. This may mean sun cream and sun hat or warm clothes. We believe in first hand learning and that there is no such thing as bad weather just the wrong clothes for the weather!



### 30 Hours

The playschool will be trialling the 30 hours funding offer in the Sunflower Room.

The children that are eligible for the funding will be able to access 4 and a half days at the playschool (if the funding is chosen to be used only at the playschool). To top up to a full week, it will cost £14.00 a week.

If you have had a code validated for the 30 hours offer from September, you will receive a letter.

Families will need to provide a packed lunch.

Feedback about the offer is welcomed as we will all be discovering how the funding will work at Warwick Community Playschool together.



### Fees and Funding

Fees for this academic year will be £12.00 per session. Fees must be paid on time to ensure that your child's space will be suspended until fees are paid. Late fees will also be charged for any families that do not collect on time and do not let us know. This will be to cover staff costs.



### Online Access

The playschool will be using a management system known as Blossom. This is a developing software that will take the place of Tapestry. The team will be able to send messages to families as well as maintaining learning journeys.

There is also the WARWICKCOMMUNITY app. You will be able to send us absence reports if your child is going to be missing their session. Newsletters will also be sent via the app rather than printed (unless requested by a family member).

We will also be adding information to our Facebook page, so please like us to keep up to date with general information.



### Safeguarding

As a part of our safeguarding and child protection work, we will be contacting families after 2 days of absence without notification. If we do not have success through phone calls, then we may conduct a home visit. If there are further concerns, we may instruct a local PSCO to complete a welfare check.

Nikki Thomson will also be joining the team on Fridays to support with safeguarding. This is to support children, families and staff. Nikki is a designated lead for safeguarding as well as a trained counsellor.



We hope to be running our family groups again shortly, please let us know if you have any requests.

We will be having Family Fridays, you can come in and place, look at learning journeys and use our lending library.

