



PRE-SCHOOL MATTERS

March 2016

One Location from September 2016

As you will be aware from the recent letter from our committee Chairperson Kate Coppinger, the Edwalton Extension will close (due to building work) at the end of the Summer Term. From September 2016 **all children will attend pre-school at the St Luke's site.**

We are absolutely delighted that from September we will be offering Monday and Friday afternoon sessions on top of our current session times at the St Luke's site. This means that the pre-school can offer 21 hours of sessions per week. As the total number of children we can accommodate at St Luke's remains at the current limit of **26** per session this is great news.

The combined site at St Luke's will continue to cater for both younger and older children through specific/differentiated planning with a focus on school readiness for the older children. The developmental needs of each age group of children (and each individual child) will be met through differentiated planning and small focused group activities. Resources will also be chosen carefully so that they are most effective for all children.

Combining a mix of 2-4 year olds is not something new to the St Luke's site. It currently caters for a mixed age range of children from 2-4 year olds where all children learn through play in a continuous provision learning environment. Pre-School will operate from the large hall and will occasionally use one of the smaller rooms for focused small group activities.

Mrs Aslanfard says: "I am confident that having all children in one site will have positive impact on children's learning and development, as older children role model the play for younger ones and older children will learn how to be caring and considerate around younger ones."

Please do let Mrs Aslanfard, Kate or Jane know if you have any questions at all.

End of an Era!

Of course, you will know now that Mrs Holmes has decided to take early retirement and will be leaving pre-school at the end of July. It really will be the end of an era!

Caroline has made a huge contribution to the pre-school over 20 years and will be very much missed by us all. We are all incredibly grateful to her for all of her hard work, dedication and loyalty.

The pre-school have been so lucky to have her with us for such a long time. We will have a little celebration to mark Caroline's retirement and the closure of the Extension and will let you know the details nearer the time.

Welcome to Leahurst Road Pre-School!

A belated welcome to all children who started pre-school in January. We hope that your child has settled in well and is enjoying their time here.

We hope that you feel part of the pre-school. If you have any questions, suggestions or feedback then we love to hear from you.

AGM and Parent's Evening

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on **Thursday 21 April from 7.30pm** at St Luke's Church. As well as the AGM, there will be opportunity to see your child's profile and talk to their Key Person.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided and Mrs Aslanfard and the committee will also go into more depth about how our 'one site' will work next year.

We are always looking for parents to help contribute to and shape the running of our pre-school, and the AGM is a great opportunity to meet new people and get involved. Please come and have a chat with parents currently on the committee about what is involved - we would love to see you all there!

CONTACT US:

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Registered Charity No: 1018262

TERM DATES

SPRING TERM 2016:

Tuesday 5 January -
Friday 1 April
15-19 Feb (Half Term)

SUMMER TERM 2016

Monday 18 April -
Friday July 22nd
30 May—3 June (half term)

AUTUMN TERM 2016

Monday 5 September -
Friday 16 December
24—28 October (half term)

SESSION TIMES:

St Luke's

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &
Friday:
9.15 - 12.15

Lunch Club everyday:
12.15 - 1.15

Edwalton Extension

Monday & Wednesday
AM: 9.15 - 12.15
(Lunch Club: 12.15 - 1.15)
PM: 1.15 - 3.45

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
9.15 - 12.15

Questionnaire results

A big thank you to everyone who completed a questionnaire. We had some fantastic and very useful feedback.

Some of the highlights of the feedback we received were: "wonderfully caring teachers; the team are very kind and happy, I find them easy to talk to and love that they know my child very well; I am always so impressed by how calm and happy the atmosphere is and how well behaved the children are; Communication is good with parents and I like to see topics covered each week. Website also useful if I need to know anything; since my child joined pre-school his confidence has increased. I was impressed when on trips and seeing him contribute to discussions at story time."

In the changes/improvements section we had some brilliant feedback and suggestions such as having afternoon sessions at St Luke's, more feedback on development, a list of things children should bring with them when they first start, and perhaps more letter sounds and encouragement to hold a pen correctly for children aged four - all of which we are implementing or working on.

The overwhelming majority of the questions were answered with a positive response. We also had a majority vote for 3.45pm finish times for afternoon sessions.

As you can see, we really value your feedback. Please do not wait for the next questionnaire if you have something you wish to tell us. There are anonymous suggestion boxes at both sites, or you can speak to any member of staff, Jane or the committee.

Thank You from Pudsey!

Thank you for all your generous Children in Need donations. Pudsey has sent us a certificate to thank us for the money raised from Mrs Holmes' sponsored walk and the children's dressing up days.



Parent Help!

We wanted to say a big THANK YOU to all those parents who help preschool by volunteering their time on the parent rota! We love having parents come along to the preschool sessions and it's a great way to experience all of the great things our children get to do whilst they are with us!

All help you can give is so much appreciated - whether you are able to stay for the whole session or just an hour or so! Having parents help with the preparation of snacks and washing up means that our brilliant staff are able to spend more time with our children and so a big thank you to everyone who comes and helps! We'd love more parents to come along so if you have any questions about the rota, please have a word with Mrs Aslanfard.

Fee Increase

There will be a slight fee increase following the Easter holidays. A three hour session will now be £12 and the cost of lunch club will increase to £4.25. Afternoon sessions will be £10.

Easter Fun

Due to the timings of Easter and the big changes happening at pre-school we have decided not to have a stand alone Easter Egg Hunt this year.



Don't worry, Mrs Holmes and Mrs Aslanfard will make sure that there is still lots of Easter fun within pre-school sessions this year!

Staff Profile: Anne Harrison



I've always lived in West Bridgford. I'm one of five children and was born in my parent's house on Trent Boulevard in Lady Bay. I went to Rushcliffe School, leaving in 1983 (some of my teachers are still there!).

I worked for 16 years at the Cooperative department store on Parliament Street in the Handybank until I left in 1999 to have my first child.

I've been married to my husband Richard for 20 years in June. We met through our love of indoor cricket. We have two children - Danielle (16) and Matthew (12), two cats - Milly and Toffu and lots of fish!

I have worked at Leahurst Road Pre-School for over 8 years now - four mornings at St Luke's and one at the Extension. I originally started working at pre-school as my children had attended - I would help out if they needed support. I really enjoyed it and did evening classes to obtain an NVQ. I later continued to study and now have an NVQ3.

I enjoy lots of outdoor activities such as cycling, jogging and walking. I also love going to the theatre and to see live bands.

My Niece, Jenny Gunn play cricket for the England Women's team and also has an MBE!

During any school holidays I travel with my son on various modes of transport to different towns and locations around the country, so that he can take photographs and collect timetables of transport - trains, trams and buses.

I am Speech, Language and Communication Coordinator and attend regular courses and network meetings to keep up to date. Please take a look at my board in the St Luke's Foyer - I update it regularly with tips, information and ideas.

Christmas Fayre



The Christmas fayre was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who came, helped out and spent their hard earned money! You helped to raise a fantastic £370 with a further £250 donated by Experian! Thanks to Julie Smith for organising.

Getting Social!

For the latest news and updates, please do 'like' our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LeahurstRoadPreschool) and follow us on Twitter

