



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new half term.

### News on the 30 hours' childcare

We are still waiting for final details from HMRC who will be running the scheme.

However, the basic information is:

All children the term after their third birthday will still be entitled to 15 hours per week term time or 12 hours over 47 weeks, a total of 570 hours across the year.

From April 2017 parents, will be able to apply to HMRC for an additional 15 hours depending on their income, please use the HMRC links on our website for full details.

Putnoe Woods will be offering the additional hours; many settings are not. We will also be offering them across all our hours including school holidays.

If you are entitled to the new scheme, it will mean you could be provided with 24 hours of childcare over our 47 weeks, reducing the burden of childcare if you are working.

As you are aware, we are a very busy setting and believe over 60% of our families will be entitled to this benefit. Additional hours will be booked on a first come, first serve basis, as long as you have the code provided from HMRC. So don't delay in registering over Easter for this scheme.

Kind Regards, The Board of Trustees at Putnoe Woods.

### **Lunchboxes**

We have noticed recently that some lunch boxes are containing more and more high fat and high sugar items. Salty and sugary items such as crisps and chocolate biscuits do not need to be in lunch boxes every day. We appreciate that food is often a tricky area but children will often try new foods when in a different environment so it's worth giving it a go! This website gives some great ideas for healthy lunch boxes and small changes that can be made to encourage new healthier eating. [www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/healthier-lunchboxes](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/healthier-lunchboxes)





### A few gentle reminders...

1. Please bring in named Wellie boots. We love going for muddy walks in the woods.
2. The use of mobile phones is NOT permitted within the preschool environment
3. If your child has had a bout of diarrhoea OR sickness, they must remain at home for 48 hours after their last bout
4. We are a NUT FREE preschool, please do not use Nutella or any type of peanut or peanut product in packed lunches
5. Please LABEL your child's belongings
6. Please ensure preschool fees are paid on time
7. Please only use the disabled parking bays if you are a blue badge holder

### Spring Term Dates 2017

Monday 20th February 2017 - Tuesday 4th April 2017

We are open from Wednesday 5th April - Friday 7th April for our all year children only

Summer Term 2017

Summer Term starts on Wednesday 19th April 2017 for term time children

### Closure dates

Pre-school will be CLOSED to ALL

From April 10th 2017 - April 17th 2017.

Reopen Tuesday 18th April 2017 for all year children only

### Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers!

We are collecting them! Please ask all friends and relatives to pass them on and post them into our collection box by the front door.





#### Future Events

World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March

All welcome to come to preschool dressed as your favourite book character. This is not compulsory. Just a bit of fun if you want to join in!

Mother Day Breakfast - Monday 27th March

Father's Day Breakfast - Monday 19th June

Sports Day - Thursday 29th June

Leavers Graduation - Wednesday 19th July

#### Preschool Uniform

We have held the prices of our uniform items for many years, however following changes from the supplier we have now had to increase our T-shirt prices.

Please note that uniform is not compulsory but it offers a practical, easy clean solution for messy play and may make getting ready a bit easier in the mornings!

T-Shirts - £5.00

Fleece - £14.00

Bag - £5.50





iConnect & Parentzone

A number of parents are still not registered!

We have sent out a secure email to invite you to activate your account and set up a unique ParentZone log in. If you have not received this email, please check your junk folder. The office can re send this registration email if you have not received it. We must have correct email addresses!

ParentZone goes hand in hand with new software called iConnect; you will see to see our Early Years Educators using tablets in the rooms. This will enable our staff to take learning observations in a fraction of the time it has taken us previously, means much more time to play, teach and care for the children instead of spending time on paperwork. It also allows you to have instant year round access to your child's daily activities and learning.



Our website is full of information so make sure you drop by often

[www.putnoewoodspreschool.co.uk](http://www.putnoewoodspreschool.co.uk)