



The Dolphin
Pre School and Nursery

March Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 11th March

Mother's day

Sunday 25th March

Clocks go forward one hour

Friday 23rd March

Sports relief

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The Dolphin Family would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following Children during March

Paige-Elaine 2<sup>nd</sup> (2), Franklin 7<sup>th</sup> (3), Oliver and Samuel 8<sup>th</sup> (2), Harry 9<sup>th</sup> (1), Bertie 14<sup>th</sup> (1), Rex 21<sup>st</sup> (2), Oscar 31<sup>st</sup> (2).

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Welcome to our March newsletter, the children really enjoyed World Book Day on Thursday and it was wonderful to see so many children dressed up. Thank you all for making an amazing effort, mother nature made the effort that bit harder!

### Learning Themes

This month's learning themes for each room are:-

Little Tots - Musical March

Little Explorers - Books

Busy Bees - Musical March

Pre School - Maths

### Parent/carer Questionnaire

Apologies, due to Little Explorers opening and then the weather we were unable to get our parents questionnaire out as planned. Please look out for an email soon that will contain the access link. If you would prefer to complete a paper version then these will be available in each room. Please ask your child's key person.

### Sports Relief

This year we are going to bounce out the day for sports relief with a bouncy castle.

The children and staff are invited to wear their sports gear for the day. It promises to be a fun filled day packed with lots of activities. Can we please ask for a small donation in return for this good cause.

### Naming of clothing

We often put this in the newsletter however it's an issue that always comes up, naming clothes and shoes saves us so much time and avoids the upset of misplaced items. As the weather hopefully warms up a little jumpers/coats/cardigans will start to be removed so please, please, please, can you name any items of clothing that come into Dolphin.

### Parents Evening

Our rooms are all holding their parents evenings during March to discuss the children's development and general chat about any queries you may have. If you haven't yet made an appointment and would like one please talk to your child's key worker ASAP. Can we also remind parents that all school leavers will have a transition parents evening in June.

### Fee Increase

April is always the time that we review our charging structure, each year we look at booked hours and our hourly charges still seem to work best for everyone. Parents have greater flexibility on required hours and we know exactly when we need staff available. When comparing our charges for a full day, between 7.30am until 18.00pm against a sessional setting there will be a difference in cost but this is balanced by the flexibility of choosing the start and finish time. For example, in a session charge setting a parent requiring care from 9am until 3pm would be charged for a full day whereas with us our parents would continue to pay for 6 hours at whichever rate applied.

Whichever way we structure our fees we need to ensure they cover our costs and allow us to reinvest in creating the best possible environment for your children to attend. This includes retaining the best staff and April always sees an increase in both minimum and living wages and this year these alone have increased by 4.5%. We have also seen an increase in the pension contributions which have more than doubled. Wages make up approximately 65% of our overall costs, alongside business rates and energy cost increases. We have tried to keep the increase to the minimum however from 1st April 2018 our fees will be -

**Little Tots/Little Explorers - £5.40/hour - Busy Bees - £5.20/hour**

**Pre-School - £5.00/hour**

Parents booking more than 8 chargeable hours in one day will continue to receive a 10% discount off those hours and we have a full time rate for parents booking 40 hours across the whole week.

We believe these fees represent excellent value for money as, unlike many other nurseries, snacks, nappies, wipes, nappy cream and sun creams are still included.