



Dandelions Newsletter

Spring Term 2018

Contact details are as follows: -

Dandelions Pre-School 01258 450624

Dandelions Out of School Care 01258 453348

Welcome to Dandelions. You might not know that the Dandelion is the official flower of the military child. Why? The plant puts down roots almost anywhere and it's impossible to destroy. It's an unpretentious plant, yet good looking. It's a survivor in a broad range of climates. Military children bloom everywhere the winds carry them. They are ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures, new lands and new friends.



We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year. We welcome Libby Abbott to Dandelions. Libby has joined us from University where she studied Fashion Design, you may also recognise her from Crazy Monsters where she works at weekends and during the school holidays. Libby is embarking on a new career in Early years and will be training with us in Dandelions.

Who's Who?

Manager Tania Williams

Deputy Manager Louise

Deputy Manager Cress

Floor Supervisors/Keyworkers Joe, Julie, Lesley-Ann

SEN Coordinator/Keyworker Shelley

Keyworkers Sarah, Helen, Kay, Amy, Emma, Amanda, Laura, Sharon, Jules

Snack Supervisor Nat

Apprentice Libby

Hopefully by now we will have met most of you and you will have been given lots of information about the routines and procedures here in Dandelions. If you are unsure about anything at all then please don't hesitate to speak to your child's keyworker or any member of staff at drop off or collection times. If you would like to make an appointment to speak with one of the Managers, please do so through the office in the pre-school building.

Here are a few reminders: -

The weekly planning is displayed on the planning board outside the office and your children contribute to the planning during the course of each week. Together we plan for the children's interests and next steps.

In the pre-school each child has a named drawer, which we ask that you empty on a daily basis as we put all paper correspondence in the drawer if we do not see you in person.

There is a full list of keyworker groups displayed in the pre-school on the parent notice boards. If you are unsure where to look, then please ask a member of the team to help you. In addition to the named keyworkers, we are fortunate to have a number of staff from outside agencies, volunteers and trainees who also support your children's learning and development and can be seen in and around the setting at various times.

We operate an open door policy in pre-school at all times and you are welcome to come in to talk to your child's keyworker or any member of the team however, visits to the pre-school cause the least amount of disruption to your children if they are at the end of the session.

Following muddy outdoor play and camp walks all children will be removing their shoes when entering the building. Please could you supply alternative footwear i.e. slippers or plimsolls which should be named and kept in your child's drawer.

Dandelions children are always losing their belongings as we travel around the inside and outside of the pre-school. **You can help by** clearly labelling all items of clothing and water bottles, bags, nappies and wipes etc.

If your child is absent due to sickness or holiday please inform a member of staff preferably in writing.

We appreciate that many of you are in a rush in the mornings when dropping off your children, however the session does not officially start until 9am and we try to alleviate much of the rush hour by opening early. We ask for your patience at the main entrance during drop off times as registering your children is extremely important and a safeguarding requirement.

We invite parents to stay and play on Thursday mornings from 9 to 10.30am.



Literacy and Communication and Language Development

We use Letters and Sounds in our daily group time to teach the children a multi-sensory approach to communication and lay the foundations for reading and writing.

You can help by:

- Sharing reading books at home.
- Encouraging your child to make marks and to sit and hold the pencil correctly when mark making; it is very difficult to correct an incorrect pencil grip later on.

Personal Social and Emotional

Mrs Cooper and Mrs Churchill will be leading the Jigsaw Project. The children are able to share their thoughts and explore their own ideas and feelings. Group activities such as show and tell and circle time at the end of each session encourage the children to develop their personal, social and emotional skills.

Expressive Arts and Design

This area of learning includes art, music, dance and imaginative play. Julie leads 'Jam and Jive with Julie' music sessions for the children in pre-school twice a week.



Mathematics

This area of learning includes counting, matching, sorting and patterns through working with numbers, shape, space and measures. We will be encouraging the children to look for patterns, sorting and ordering a variety of objects. A numeracy group activity is put into the mathematics area every day and during group time.

You can help by:

- Counting together, for example when you climb the stairs to help ordering.
- Cooking together uses mathematical language: the same, a little more, less etc.
- Learning and saying number rhymes.
- Looking for numbers and shapes e.g. house numbers and road signs.
- Talking about and saying days of the week and months of the year.

We are surrounded by maths in our everyday lives and it is important that children are keen to explore the world of number, shape and measures.

Understanding of the World

We shall be learning about our families and community. We continue to learn about the changing seasons and use the outdoor environment daily to discover the local wildlife and insects. We will ask questions about why things happen, how they work and encourage the children to investigate various materials.

Physical Development

This gives the children the opportunity to develop their skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. It encourages the development of both gross and fine motor skills. We will be practising fine motor skills by using a variety of different small

tools such as pencils, pens scissors, brushes as well as pegboards, pegs and threading activities. We will be practising gross motor skills by using the indoor and outdoor apparatus, bats and balls and the favourite bikes and trikes. All of the children will have the opportunity to participate in planned physical activities in the school hall on a weekly basis.



Dandelions is proud to hold a Dorset Gold Healthy Eating award and the children attending all sessions are encouraged to think about keeping healthy and active. Hot school meals are available to order through Downlands School Office and meals need to be ordered one week in advance.

You can help by

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supplying a selection of healthy foods in their lunch boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encouraging your child to put their coat on independently	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage your child to drink water or milk

We are always pleased to have parent helpers in the classroom, please let us know if you can help.

Pictures of your child may be displayed on the school website which is updated on a weekly basis. Have a look and see at www.downlandsschool.org.uk Dandelions have an information only 'Facebook' page, which you can join. Search for Downlands Dandelions Pre-School and Out of Hours Club and add us, to receive up to date information.