



Emneth Nursery School Newsletter

Autumn 1st



Headteacher Update

Welcome back everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some special time with family and friends. It has been lovely to see our returning children back at nursery, eager to play, learn and reconnect with their friends.

This term, we are also delighted to welcome lots of new families to our nursery community. Starting nursery is an exciting milestone, and we look forward to getting to know all of our new children and supporting them as they settle into nursery life.

Over the summer break, the nursery has had a refresh to help keep our environment welcoming, safe and enjoyable for everyone. You may have noticed that the outside of the building has been freshly painted, and we have installed a new fence, along with other improvements around the setting. We are very pleased with how everything looks and hope our children enjoy the enhanced environment as much as we do.

We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead, filled with learning, exploration and fun. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we can ensure that every child has a happy and successful start to the new school year.

Term Dates for the Autumn Term

Autumn 1st half term

Reopen Thursday 3rd September

Closes Thursday 22nd October

Half term Friday 23rd October to Friday 30th October (we remain open for our all year round children, however please note that the nursery is CLOSED TO EVERYONE on 30th October)

Autumn 2nd half term

Reopen on Monday 2nd November

Closes Friday 18th December

Christmas Holiday Monday 21st December to Monday 4th January (Closed for all)

Reopen on Tuesday 5th January

Funding

If you are accessing the funding available for working families please make sure you have handed your code into the office.

It's important to remember that codes need to be renewed every three months. To do this, you'll need to remember to login to your childcare account to check when your reconfirmation dates are, so that you can renew your code on time. If you don't renew it on time, you will need to reapply and you will be charged until your new code starts.

The childcare choices website has now been changed to 'Best Start In Life' so please look there for more information about funding, please see the link below.

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

Additional Nursery Closure Day

We would like to remind families that the nursery will be closed on **Thursday 30th October** for an additional staff training day. Previous communication regarding this closure day was sent out last term.

As a whole team, we will be visiting a highly regarded Forest School setting near Norwich to further develop our knowledge and understanding of outdoor learning. This exciting opportunity will allow staff to observe best practice, gain new ideas and strengthen our skills in providing high-quality, nature-based learning experiences for our children.

We are committed to continually developing our practice to ensure we offer the very best opportunities for the children at Emneth Nursery School. We are looking forward to bringing back lots of inspiration and ideas that will enhance our outdoor provision and support children's learning and wellbeing.

Thank you for your understanding and support. We apologise for any inconvenience this additional closure may cause and appreciate your cooperation.

CLOSED

Staffing Update

I am pleased to be able to introduce you to two new members of staff. Katherine is helping to cover lunches in Orchards and Ellie will be doing some bank work for us. We welcome them to our amazing team! Also Lauren was previously one of our cleaners but is now also a midday supervisor.

Ellie - Bank Work



Katherine - Midday Supervisor

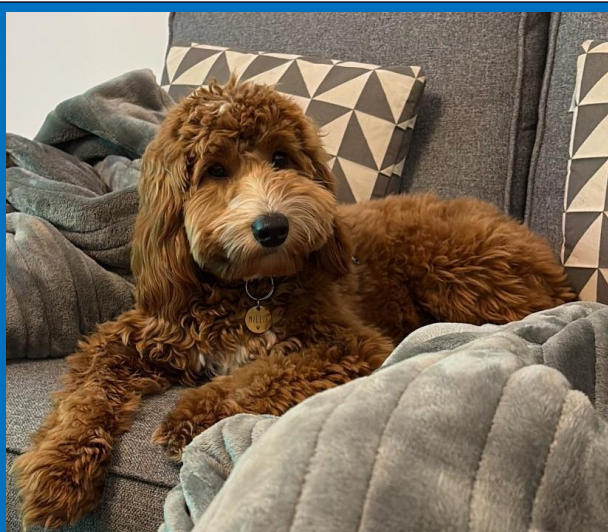


Lauren - Midday Supervisor





Our Autumn fayre will be on 11th November 4pm-5pm. More information will be shared closer to the time.



Nursery Dog Information for New Families

We are delighted to introduce our nursery dog, who is a valued member of our school community. She helps us promote a calm, nurturing environment and provides opportunities for children to develop confidence, communication skills and positive relationships with animals.

We understand that families may have different preferences regarding their child's interaction with dogs. Therefore, **children will only come into contact with our nursery dog if we have received parental permission.** If permission has not been given, your child will not participate in any activities involving her.

Our nursery dog is based in the office area and **does not go into the nursery rooms.** Children who have permission to interact with her may visit her in the office in small groups, always under close adult supervision.

The wellbeing and safety of both our children and nursery dog are our highest priorities, and all interactions are carefully managed by staff.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our nursery dog further, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Packed Lunch Reminder

Following last year's Healthy Lunchbox Project and the updated Early Years guidance, we would like to remind families that all packed lunches should be sent in the compartment lunch boxes provided by the nursery.

As an Early Years setting, we are required to follow strict guidance around children's nutrition, food safety and healthy eating. Using the compartment lunch boxes helps us ensure that children are offered appropriate portion sizes, supports balanced meal choices and allows food to be stored and managed safely throughout the day.

You are very welcome to place the compartment lunch box inside your child's usual lunch bag if this is more convenient.

If you do not currently have one of our nursery lunch boxes, or if yours has been damaged, please speak to a member of staff and we will be happy to provide a replacement.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us meet these requirements and ensure that all children remain healthy, safe and ready to learn each day.



Hot Lunches

Please make sure you let us the office staff know which days your child will be having a hot lunch for the whole of the half term. Hot lunches need to be set days. We appreciate your cooperation with this.



Photography Days at Nursery

We're excited to let you know that our wonderful photographer, Nik, will be visiting the nursery on 14th and 15th October.

Nik will be taking a mix of formal and informal photos, which will be available for you to purchase. These make beautiful keepsakes and thoughtful Christmas gifts for family and friends.



Changes to Nursery Invoicing

We would like to let families know about an upcoming change to the way we issue nursery invoices.

We are pleased to be introducing invoicing through our Learning Journal system, **OPAL**. This means that invoices can be created and shared directly with families through a system you already use, making the process more streamlined, convenient and time-saving for both parents and the nursery team.

As part of this change, invoices will move to a **monthly schedule**. We hope this will provide families with a clearer overview of charges and make managing payments easier.

Using OPAL for invoicing will reduce paperwork, improve communication and help us spend less time on administration, allowing staff to focus more of their time on supporting children's learning and development.

You will receive more detailed information about this change shortly, including invoicing dates, payment arrangements and guidance on how to access your invoices through OPAL.

Thank you for your support as we introduce this new system. We are confident that these changes will make the invoicing process simpler, more efficient and more convenient for everyone.

Flourishing Families

Norfolk have created a new tool called the 'Flourishing Families Tool.' This has been designed for families who might want a little extra help meeting their child's needs. We know that parenting can sometimes feel overwhelming but we all share the common goal to give children the best start in life.

There are all sorts of things that you can get help with, whether it's healthy eating, fun activities or financial support, and this tool was developed to help you work out what you're already doing well and help you find support when and if you need it.

To use the tool please go to <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/our-services/flourishing-families/>

Updates

For regular updates, important messages and a glimpse into the exciting activities taking place at nursery, please follow our Facebook page.

<https://www.emneth-nur.norfolk.sch.uk/>

