WASPS Out of School Club

A warm and safe environment where children aged 3 to 13 learn, grow and have fun!

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2021

Thank you all for your continued support this term. We cannot believe we are almost at the end of the term and moving fast towards the busiest (and most exciting) time of the year for the children.

As a team we are still providing extra ventilation during sessions, extra cleaning between sessions and wearing face masks in the hall and when driving children in the minibus or own cars. At present with the numbers of positive cases in the area, we feel this is something we will continue to do until as a team we see changes to the number of cases in the area.

**REMINDERS**

As the weather is rather changeable could you please ensure children come to school with a coat. We are finding that children very often come to breakfast club with no coat when it is raining and we do not have spare coats for them to wear. As lots of children have colds at present it does seem unnecessary that they are coming to school with no coats on.

Also can we remind you that children should have a named water bottle with them each day. Whatever the weather children need to remain hydrated and if they do not have a water bottle with them they can often go all day without being offered a drink elsewhere. To remain healthy please ensure they always have a water bottle with them.

Can we also ask that children do not bring in umbrellas! Please ensure they have a coat with a hood instead. Very often the only thing the umbrella is used for is to hit other children and very often get lost also which means lots of tears.

**Important Covid Reminders**

As soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

 • high temperature

 • new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours

• loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you’re not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

At present there are lots of children that are presenting with cold or flu like symptoms so please err on the side of caution and not send them to school or WASPS until they have been tested.

**Please do not send children back to WASPS or school if any of the following apply**:

 • they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

 • they have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been informed by Test and Trace to isolate

• they have not completed the full isolation period requested

**Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff**

Please follow the link to find out more about home testing for those without symptoms and your nearest kit collection point if you wish to participate in this. This is for adults only and not for Primary aged pupils.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-schoolpupils-and-staff>

**Symptoms or positive cases**

If your child develops symptoms or tests positive for Coronavirus, please inform WASPS Out of School Club by email on nicola@waspsclub.com or by text on 07904391133.

**STAFF NEWS**

Jo left at the end of September to commence her maternity leave. Once we have news of baby Milligan, we will let you know!

Amy Ellen is helping cover some of these hours on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning and will be helping out until the end of January when she will also be leaving to commence maternity leave.

We also have Darcy Free helping out on a couple of occasions each week. Darcy used to attend WASPS when she was younger so knows how we do things from a young persons perspective.

Sarah Rhodes left us this month to work at Three Rivers hospital as an administrator, so we wish her lots of luck with that. We are lucky to have a replacement for Sarah commencing with us after half term. Lisa Livesey worked with us during the summer play scheme and will be taking over the hours that Sarah worked and will also be able to provide some extra cover for staff absences. Lisa has worked for the last 20 years in a school in Cheshunt so has lots of knowledge of working with children and we are happy to welcome her to our team.

Chloe has taken over some of the admin from Nicola so will be looking after the staff rota’s, toy and activity planning and birthday cards. She will be working with Rebecca who has taken over the kitchen to ensure cooking activities can be planned into each week. Rebecca will be taking over the supplies and organisation for the kitchen and we will return back to our pre-covid snack menu of 3 hot meals and 2 cold meals a week. Once the menu has been finalised, this will be sent out to you separately. She will also be looking at more cost effective snacks so this will allow for more fruit and vegetables to be offered as a separate snack when the children are first collected from school.

Chloe and Sarah have both taken over the EYFS children planning and learning journals and although we are not expected to provide learning journals for the nursery children, we like to do this as it shows good practice and also provides a story of their time with us. Unfortunately we do not have time to do this for all children only those in nursery. Chloe and Sarah have extensive knowledge in this area so they are the perfect people to ensure our EYFS children are looked after.

Skye has taken over all things regarding to social media for Nicola. She has produced a new website which when we are ready to publish it, will let you know. She has also taken over the club Instagram and Facebook page and group and will be updating those to let you know what we get up to.

Nicola is currently on a PARS for Playwork level 4 course which looks at a reflection model of practice for practitioners and how practitioners interact with children through play. We will be looking at ways to enhance children’s play in the setting next term.

**INVOICES**

As you will now be aware, we have all details on our database and are able to generate invoices from there. On the invoices it has the sessions that you are being charged for so if there are any changes, please make sure you inform us. Also, with regards to invoices please be aware that in your contract it does say that invoices are due to be paid by the first of that month at the latest. As per your contract you will be charged £1 per day until you pay that invoice. Those that continue to pay their invoices late or refuse to pay late fees may incur a temporary suspension of their child’s place as a last resort.

Also please remember that if you go over your contracted time for After School Club or bring children in before their contracted time for Breakfast Club, then you will be charged the higher fee which is less than 1 weeks’ notice as per your contract.

**PLAY SCHEME**

October play scheme needed to cancel the Monday due to lack of bookings but the rest of the days are going ahead. We are also taking bookings for February play scheme. There will be a slight increase of fees for February 2022. If you need a booking form for this, please ask.

Remember we do not serve food at play scheme to keep the costs down. Ensure your children come equipped for all weathers so waterproofs and wellies to sun lotion in a named bottle and a sun hat. Please also ensure that children do not have items in their lunchboxes that contains nuts due to allergies.

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

Please could we remind parents that children are not allowed to bring in their own food from home to eat at breakfast club. We have had various occasions where children come in with chocolate biscuits to eat for breakfast which is unacceptable. We provide cereal or toast at breakfast time so there is generally enough choice for everyone.

Also a reminder that parents are not allowed into the building. This is to keep us and them safe at all times due to COVID.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO INFORM US**

Please remember that we stop serving breakfast at 8.10am at present due to the need to pack away and clean before we leave the building and SPINS Nursery enter at 08.30am. This is the only way we are able to open both business alongside each other at present. Any children that arrive after this time will not be offered breakfast unless there are any cereal bars left. This is simply because all children need to be in the foyer at 8.30am to get ready for School and everything in the hall and kitchen must be put away and locked up to allow SPINS Nursery to set up for their session.

Also, we are having lots of occasions where parents are not informing us that their child or children are not attending a session with us. This is the reason we have on our contracts a £2 charge for not informing us.

In the afternoons we nearly always need to wait to get the school secretary to ring a parent or Teacher and ask where a child is and why WASPS have not been informed. On a couple of occasions, we have been close to ringing the Police as the child has not been accounted for. Please ensure you let us know if your child or children are going to be absent from a session by text or email, please so that we have something in writing. Sometimes we are asked by the school to show them proof that a child is not with us when they are supposed to be. The safety of your child is always our main priority. Where we drive to School to collect children this can also mean that we can sometimes send 2 vehicles when it is just not needed so again just a text, email or phone call will help to deploy staff where they are needed. Thank you in advance.

**RESOURCES NEEDED**

Thank you so much for the resources that you give us when your children no longer play with them. Our toys are forever being broken or simply worn out so anything that you give us is always appreciated.

Please remember us when you are looking at taking toys to the charity shop or throwing away. Children love new toys, and they are so expensive to replace.

We are always looking for paper, pens and craft items as well as toys. We could do with replacing barbie’s accessories and clothes, Polly pocket clothes, baby clothes which are just some of the items needed at present.

**IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS**

We are constantly looking at new ways for WASPS to ensure we cater for what parents changing needs are going forwards. Please feel free to email me or call me with ideas and suggestions for changes to suit your needs. If we have enough of you asking for the same thing then we will look at it and decide as a team if we can accommodate these ideas and suggestions.

Also we have had children ask for squash to drink. We may trial this and see how it goes but if anyone would rather their children NOT have squash, can you please email Nicola and let her know. Obviously we will offer sugar free squash. Thank you.

**TERM DATE REMINDERS**

We close on Friday 22nd October and reopen on Monday 1st November 2021.

OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

**2021**

Thursday 2nd September – Friday 22nd October

***PLAY SCHEME Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October (08.00am-6.00pm)***

Monday 1st November – Thursday 2nd December

Monday 6th December – Tuesday 21st December (1.15pm Collection RC/1.30pm ST/1.30pm RS)

**2022**

Thursday 6th January – Friday 11th February

***PLAY SCHEME Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February(08.00am-6.00pm)***

Monday 21st February – Friday 1st April (1.15pm Collection RC/1.30pm ST/1.30pm RS/12.15 J)

***PLAY SCHEME Monday 4th April – Friday 8th April (08.00am-6.00pm)***

***PLAY SCHEME – Monday 11th April – Thursday 14th April (08.00am-6.00pm)***

Wednesday 20th April – Friday 29th April

Tuesday 3rd May – Wednesday 4th May

Friday 6th May – Thursday 26th May

Tuesday 7th June – Thursday 21st July (1.15pm Collection RC/1.30pm RS/3.20 J)

***PLAY SCHEME – Monday 15th August – Friday 19th August (08.00am-6.00pm)***

***PLAY SCHEME – Monday 22nd August – Friday 26th August (08.00am-6.00pm)***

***PLAY SCHEME – Tuesday 30th August – Friday 2nd September (08.00am-6.00pm)***

We will be **closed** on the following dates

**2021**

Friday 3rd December (RS, J, RC Occasional Day)

Wednesday 22nd December – Wednesday 5th January (Christmas Holidays)

**2022**

Friday 15th April (Good Friday)

Monday 18th April (Easter Monday)

Tuesday 19th April (RS, ST Inset Day)

Monday 2nd May (May Day)

Thursday 5th May (Hall Closed for Elections)

Friday 27th May (RC, RS Inset Day)

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June (Whitsun)

Monday 6th June (Inset Day)

Friday 22nd July – Friday 12th August (Summer Holidays)

Monday 29th August (Bank Holiday)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE DATES MAY ALTER SLIGHTLY IF SCHOOLS INTRODUCE MORE INSET OR OCCASIONAL DATES FOR 2021/2022

CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Mobile: 07904 391133 (Nicola keeps), 2nd Mobile: 07500 665439 (Kept at hall)

Email: nicola@waspsclub.com

Website: [www.waspsclub.com](http://www.waspsclub.com)

Facebook: WASPS Out of School Club