



Autumn Newsletter

September 2025



A very warm welcome to all our existing and new children and families who have joined us this term.

We hope you had a lovely Summer together and we look forward to spending time with the children, talking about the photos and memories made from their 'My Summer Holiday' booklets.

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH for the collection and end of term gifts our staff received. Like last year, we are looking at different places that we can go to on a day out using the end of year and last Christmas' collection money.

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 11th September

First toddler session of the new term

Friday 26th September – 2:15pm

MacMillan's Coffee Afternoon

Thursday 2nd October

Louise the Photographer

Wednesday 22nd October

Family trip to Hatters Farm pumpkin picking – details to follow

Friday 24th October

Halloween fancy dress party

Monday 27th Oct to Friday 31st Oct

Half Term

Monday 1st December

Occasional Day – no school

Thursday 11th December

Ducklings Carol Concert

Friday 12th December

Breakfast with Santa

Sunday 30th November

Village Christmas Fair – details to follow

Thursday 4th December

Ducklings & Toddlers Christmas Party – Hunsdon Village Hall – details to follow

Friday 19th December

End of Term at noon

Gentle Reminders

All clothing and items brought into pre-school should be clearly labelled. This includes scooters and bikes that are brought in from home.

Labels can be purchased from www.stikins.co.uk. If you input our fundraising code – 10330 – we receive a percentage of money for each sale.

In the mornings, scooters & bikes should be left in the bike shed on the way into pre-school and we kindly ask that they are not used in the playground when lining up.

We understand that some children may want to bring in familiar toys from home, particularly at the start of the term, but we politely ask that they are kept to a minimal and, where possible, should be topic related.

Weather permitting, weekly Learning Walks will continue, and we will visit the park, dell or aerodrome. Could you please provide a bag of suitable clothing to include wellies and a puddle suit that can be left throughout the term on your child's peg. Clothing should be clearly labelled with their name.



If your child will not be attending Ducklings due to illness or holiday, could we please ask that you call 01279 841044 or email info@hunsdonducklings.co.uk giving details of the reason behind their absence.

Please be reminded, so to help stop the spread of germs, we ask that if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, that they are kept off school for 48 hours following the last episode.

Recently, there has been much publicity around how young children are supported in early years settings, particularly during meal and rest times. We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you and highlight the procedures we follow at Ducklings to keep children safe and well cared for.

Meal and Snack Times

- **Staff supervision:** There are always at least two members of staff present during snack and lunch times.
- **Positive role modelling:** Staff sit with the children during meals, encouraging social interaction and healthy eating habits.
- **First aid training:** All staff are Paediatric First Aid (PFA) trained.
- **Choking prevention:** During our September inset day, we refreshed our training on choking risks and safe food preparation. To help us minimise risks further, we kindly remind families to:
 - Cut grapes, olives, tomatoes, large blueberries, strawberries and sausages **lengthways**.
 - Slice raw vegetables and fruit e.g. apple, carrot and melon into slices.
 - Popcorn should not be included in children's packed lunches.
- **No nut policy:** To protect children with allergies, we are strictly a nut-free setting – this includes Nutella type spread.
- **LifeVac device:** In addition to our first aid box, we have a LifeVac device on site. This non-invasive suction tool, recommended by our training provider (KeepaBeat), can be used in the rare event of a severe choking incident where back blows or the Heimlich manoeuvre are not effective.
- **Communication:** If your child is ever involved in a choking incident, you will be informed, and an incident form will be completed.

Sleep and Rest Times

While we do not schedule sleep times at Ducklings, there are occasions when children may naturally fall asleep. If this happens, children are:

- Settled into a quiet area (such as the reading corner).
- Covered with a blanket for comfort.
- Always kept within sight and supervision of a staff member and checked regularly.

We hope this information reassures you about the measures we take to ensure your child's safety and wellbeing. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with a member of staff.

Your child's memories, milestones and achievements are gathered during their time with us at Ducklings and are presented in their Learning Journey books. These are personal to them and gives a picture of how your child has learnt and developed during the beginning of their early years education.

The children get to take these home at the end of their time with Ducklings, but we offer an open-door policy and welcome parents/carers to make an appointment to come and have a chat with your child's keyworker, have a look through the learning journey and to discuss their progression.

We also issue Unique Child Summaries at the end of each term which gives an overview of your child's progress during that term. They also outline the next steps that we will be working to with them and suggestions of how you can support your child with them at home.



SHOW & TELL

Show & Tell gives your child the opportunity to bring in something relevant to the topic for that week e.g. a book, toy, picture, object or an event which they will share with their peers and staff during the week. We have also given suggestions for things you can do at home to promote and support your child's learning. **If some weeks you do not have anything relevant, please do not worry as we have many resources the children can share.**

Week commencing 15th September – Transport

While walking through the village or travelling by car, discuss the various types of vehicles observed. Highlight differences such as size, colour, number of wheels, and whether the vehicle operates on land or in the air.

Week commencing 22nd September – Transport

Using recycling material, make a model of a vehicle

Week commencing 29th September – Patterns

Collect interesting items whilst on a nature walk, like different coloured leaves or pinecones. Arrange them to show a pattern and take a photo.

Week commencing 6th October – Hello Autumn book

Go blackberry picking and make some homemade jam.

Week commencing 13th October – Autumn

Draw a picture using only autumnal colours.

Week commencing 20th October – Walter's Wonderful Web (Spider & Shapes

Can you find out five interesting facts about spiders

FUNDRAISING

Hunsdon Ducklings pre-school is a registered charity and the staff are always thinking of ways to help raise funds so that monies can be put back into the pre-school so that the children can benefit from even better learning opportunities, enabling environments and resources.

How can our parents/carers help?

- Do you have any fundraising ideas?
- Are you part of a company/organisation that participate in matching donations?
- Do you have free time to volunteer at fundraising events? As much, or as little time as you can give would be welcomed.
- Are you able to source exciting raffle prize donations from your employees or personal contacts?
- When fundraising events are published, gather friends and family to pop along to and support.



Buy your personalised labels via
www.stikins.co.uk
Use fundraising code 10330



Unwanted clothing and shoes can be put in the shed opposite the bike shed. Regular collections are made and we earn money from its weight.

This is our first fundraising event of the academic year and we're thrilled to welcome the incredibly talented Dolly Bailey!

Dolly will be performing a mix of music genres to keep you singing and dancing all night long.

This is a great way to meet other parents or gather friends for a local night out. Let's come together for a great cause, our pre-school, and a fab night!

FUNDRAISING NIGHT

AT HUNSDON VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER
7:30-11:30PM

JOIN US FOR A FANTASTIC EVENING
OF MUSIC AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT
WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE

DOLLY BAILEY

PERFORMING LIVE FOR US

£10 ENTRY

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
INFO@HUNSDONDUCKLINGS.CO.UK
01279 841044

**PLEASE BOOK THOSE BABYSITTERS –
THIS IS AN ADULT-ONLY EVENT**

