



Autumn Newsletter

September 2024



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 12th September

First toddler session of the new term

Wednesday 23rd October

Family trip to Hatters Farm pumpkin picking – details to follow

Friday 25th October

Halloween fancy dress party

Monday 28th Oct to Friday 01st Nov

Half Term

Monday 25th November

Occasional Day – no school

Saturday 30th November

Village Christmas Fair – details to follow

Friday 20th December

End of Term at noon



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.

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.

Hunsdon Ducklings aims to be a Nut-Free Pre-school.

This policy serves to set out all measures to reduce the risk to those children and adults who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts to which they are sensitive. Therefore, **we do not allow nuts or nut products in lunch boxes.**

Could we politely request that grapes, olives & tomatoes are cut up lengthways when in packed lunchboxes

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 9th September – Elmer

Exploring colour, make a rainbow using different coloured materials/resources from around the house

Week commencing 16th September – Elmer

Go to the library and find out five facts on elephants

Week commencing 23rd September – The Gruffalo

Talk to your child about how the Gruffalo looks. Encourage them to draw their own version

Week commencing 30th September – The Gruffalo

Visit The Gruffalo Trail (Thorndon Lodge, 29 Brentwood Rd, Ingrave, Warley, Brentwood CM13 3RE) and send in photos of your visit

Week commencing 7th October – Autumn

Go on a walk and collect Autumnal objects. Bring them into school for carpet time conversation.

Week commencing 14th October – Autumn

Make a den and pretend to hibernate – send in photos

Week commencing 21st October – Autumn Paint a picture of a pumpkin (2d) or be creative and make a 3d model of a pumpkin

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.

We will be running a **NEW** or **NEARLY NEW TOY STALL** at the **Village Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30th November**. If you have any toys that you no longer need, we will happily accept donations for us to sell on. We ask that toys are spotless and in a re-useable condition. We cannot accept damaged/worn toys and would ask that you check any donations over before dropping them into the portacabin.