**UP COMING DIARY DATES 2019**

**Monday 6th May**

CLOSED May Bank holiday

**8th & 9th May**

School Photos (school uniform)

**Monday 27th May**

CLOSED May Bank holiday

**W/c 10th June**

Parent craft week

**Tuesday 18th June**

Pre**-**school sports day (1pm to 3pm) statutory school age children only

**Monday 26th Aug**

CLOSED Bank Holiday

**EXCLUSION REMINDER**

Please may we remind parents that there is a **48 hour exclusion** after sickness and diarrhoea, this is from the last bout of either sickness or diarrhoea. So please do not send your child in if they are showing

any signs of this.

**OFSTED INSPECTION**

As you will all be aware we were visited by Ofsted on the 3rd April. As a team we felt very prepared and confident, but as expected with these things the nerves still remain! We are incredibly proud to say that we were judged **OUTSTANDING!** With some absolutely glowing comments! Our team of practitioners that support the children are currently of a very high standard, they are compassionate and dedicated individuals and with feel very fortunate to have them as part of our Beechoak Team! We are sure you will join us in saying a very big well done and well deserved! The full inspection report will be available shortly on the Ofsted website, there are also copies around the nursery. Here are a few snippets from the report:

“Leaders and staff work exceptionally well as a cohesive team”.

“All children make rapid and significant progress in their learning”.

“Children with special educational needs or those who speak English as an Additional Language receive dedicated teaching and support”

“Excellent parent involvement helps children to blossom and flourish”

“Leaders and managers are extremely ambitious. They have exceedingly high expectations”

“Children are extremely active and enthusiastic leaners. They eagerly respond to the exciting and challenging activities presented to them”

“Older children learn excellent skills that help them become ready for school”

“Children become independent from an early age”

**STAFF NEWS**

We have been incredibly busy as a staff team to start the new year. We have welcomed Lily Smith-Loveday to our team, Lily used to attend Beechoak as a child and has now returned to start an apprenticeship with us! You will see Lily floating around all the rooms. Gerri has also now returned to join the Preschool team, floating through the rooms whilst Sofia heads up the running of the Foxes.

At Beechoak we have an ongoing dedication to staff training and development. We are continuously looking to improve and development as a team to make the nursery experience strong for our children. Chanelle (room leader of the Squirrels) has attended Equality training and has now assumed the role of Equality Named Coordinator throughout the nursery, whilst Jenny (room leader of the Owls) oversees Behaviour management. Maria (room leader of the Hedgehogs) has also assumed the role of Deputy SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) and will now support Hannah (room leader of the Swans) in this role. Lucy (room leader of the Ducks) has also attended English as an Additional Language training and will oversee this across the nursery. Five of us have also refreshed our Health & Safety level 3 and Fire Safety training.

We also accessed some distance learning courses towards the end of last year which have now been passed by everyone who completed them. The courses had a focus on Children’s Mental Health, Safeguarding, and Managing Behaviour & Understanding Autism. The next wave of short courses are due to start soon!

As a result of recent courses we have decided to appoint a Mental Health Champion for Beechoak. Sarah Norfolk (Manager) will oversee the mental health of booth staff and children. She will attend training shortly.

Many of our staff are also undertaking childcare qualifications with some recently qualifying. Sophie (nursery nurse in the Squirrels) has achieved her NVQ level 3 as has Georgie (Nursery Nurse in the Otters) both members of staff have developed their practice and confidence hugely over the past year and received glowing feedback from their tutor. Well done ladies!

Stephanie (Room Leader of the Otters) has also qualified as level 5 in Health & Social Care! This is an amazing achievement for Steph who has completed this earlier than planned alongside being a mum and working full time! Steph is a fantastic role model to us all and we are incredibly proud of her achievements since she joined us unqualified in 2016. Steph has also been appointed Senior Nursery Nurse, she will be an asset to the Senior Leadership Team, Fantastic Steph!

Harriett is completing the Marathon on Sunday! Best of luck Harriett, you will be amazing!

**RSPB WILD CHALLENGE**

This is well underway throughout the nursery with lots of lovely activities taking place. We are sure you have seen them via Tapestry. The children & staff are enjoying the challenge and look forward to gaining the awards!

**NURSERY PHOTOS**

Sophie Dunne will be returning on the 8th & 9th May to take photos. On this occasion children will need to be dressed in their nursery uniform for a twist on the traditional school photos! Photos will not be taken unless we have receive signed permission so please ensure you has given this prior to the date. Permission can be given in the office.

**PEOPLE WHO HELP US**

The month of May will be very busy indeed with lots of our lovely parents/ carers offering their time to come in to speak to the children about their occupations, many thanks for your support in advance. The children will experience visits from the Fire Brigade, the Police, a nurse, a vet and the Air Ambulance. We will of course share these experiences with you, and it’s not too late to contact us if you would like to share your knowledge with the children. It also doesn’t need to focus on your occupation, you could share a hobby with the children or even a cultural festival you celebrate.

**MILLIE’S MARK ACCREDITATION**

We are pleased to tell you that we have submitted our Millie’s Mark accreditation for moderation! We will of course keep you updated with the progress on our application. For those of you unaware of the details of Milie’s Mark we have included some information below:

**What is Millie’s Mark?**

As a parent, placing your child in an early years setting that is endorsed with Millie’s Mark provides reassurance that all childcare practitioners know what to do in a paediatric first aid situation. It acknowledges that children’s safety is at the forefront of the setting’s mind when they care for your child. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidelines, which childcare settings in England are required to follow, currently state that just one person with a current paediatric first aid certificate must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present or on outings. (DfE 2017, page 22)

Millie's Mark is a special endorsement for childcare providers that go above and beyond these minimum requirements by having 100% of staff trained in paediatric first aid, and also ensuring that everything learned during the course is kept in the forefront of practitioners’ minds so that they are confident, ready and capable. Millie’s Mark is named after Millie Thompson, who died after choking on food at nursery in 2012 when she was just nine months old. Read more about Millie’s legacy at www.milliesmark.com/about-us. National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) is delivering Millie’s Mark on behalf of the Department for Education and in conjunction with Millie’s Trust.

**How does an early years setting achieve Millie’s Mark?**

In order to apply for Millie’s Mark, 100% of staff working directly with the children must be qualified in paediatric first aid. The accreditation process then takes between three and six months. The process involves being allocated a mentor, who supports the setting to check processes and procedures are up to the standard required through a setting audit, staff confidence audit, staff training matrix and floor plan review. If areas for improvement are identified, the mentor works with the setting to develop an action plan. Once these steps are complete, nurseries upload evidence to the Millie’s Mark website. The evidence is assessed, and a percentage of nurseries receive a spot check.

**FOOD FOR LIFE ACCREDITATION**

We now look to our next planned accreditation which is run in conjunction with Jamie Oliver’s Garden Project. As part of this accreditation will shall be looking at all foods we offer throughout the day, food education with the children and how we grow products for use. We will update you along our journey!

**PARENT CRAFT**

Children, parents and staff all had a lovely time getting crafty with our spring activities! Thank you to all the parents that took the time to attend. We shall be running a summer themed craft week starting on the 10th June. Again we shall send out details closer to the time.

**SPORTS DAY**

Our annual sports day is being held on the 18th June! Sports Day is for our pre-school children only (those children that are of statutory school age this summer) we will update those involved with the details closer to the time! Sports day is always a great occasion with lots of fun and competition!

**SUMMER LEAVERS**

For the children leaving us this summer to join ‘big school’, you will have found out which school you have been allocated. We hope you are happy with your child’s future school and would like to wish the children the very best! They have been an absolute pleasure to teach and care for, we have loved every minute of it! Please do pop back from time to time, we love to keep in touch!

Our transition process will now begin. Letters have been sent to all of the children’s schools inviting them to Beechoak to meet with your child and their key person. Transition activities will be carried out and we shall begin to create a transition board showing which schools the children will be attending!

We do require at least six weeks written notice of your intention to withdraw your child from our register, this can be sent via email or handed in to the office in the form of a letter.

**CLOTHING & SHOES**

We encourage the children at Beechoak to become independent and encourage them to do as much for themselves as possible. Could we please remind you that shoes with Velcro straps are easier for the child to put on and off by themselves aiding their independence. Laces and converse style trainers are very difficult for the children to put on and can become a trip hazard if they become untied. No crocs, sandals or any other summer style shoes are allowed to be worn at Beechoak Farm during the summer months. Shoes must be closed toe in shoes i.e. not a flip flop but a plimsoll style.

Could we please ask that you are dressing the children in suitable clothing for the weather and that the children bring wellington boots, every day that they attend. Often we use the back field as a nature trail and the children are able to check on our bug hotel for creepy crawlies and insects and also play in the mud kitchen.

**TAPESTRY**

We would like to remind you that we will not be sending out daily Tapestry observations. It is essential that we have a balance between the amounts of time that our staff spend compiling these alongside supporting your children. As a staff team we feel that the time spent on Tapestry has taken over from spending quality time with your children, therefore going forwards we will only be recording significant achievements.

**INVOICING**

Is prepared and sent on or around the 20th of each month. If you are having trouble receiving these emails please do check your spam or junk files as sometimes they are delivered there. Payments are due on or before the first of the month, at which time the FEE Planner will take your direct debit payment. If you are using the childcare voucher please ensure that these are also with us on or before the first of each month.

Any account enquiries should be forwarded to June from accounts by way of email beechoakfarmaccounts@btconnect.com.

**PLEASE REMEMBER!**

* Please do not allow the children to climb on the statue.
* To ensure your child is sent in with appropriate clothing and footwear during the cold, wet winter months. No UGGs or UGG style shoes are allowed at nursery.
* For safeguarding purposes we ask you not to use your mobile phone once you are through the school gate. Please finish any phone calls and refrain from answering calls whilst on the premises.
* Please make sure that the main gate and gates through the field are fully closed behind you at dropping off and collection times.
* Please reverse into parking bays for the safety of the children.
* Please call in the event of your child’s absence especially if you child has a special diet. The office is open from 7.45am in the morning, alternatively please leave a message or email.
* Please drop off promptly at 9am as late drop offs disrupt the classes. Also can we remind parents to collect by 4pm or 5pm if your child is booked into tea club, any late collections are chargeable and extremely disruptive to our staff.
* Could we please also ask that siblings are not left unsupervised on the premises at drop off/ collection time. Please keep them with you at all times, we cannot be held responsible for their safety.
* Can you please refrain from sending food products in. We have many children with allergies and it is essential that they do not come into contact with certain foods.
* A notice board is situated outside the main office which is updated every Friday evening for the following week with the upcoming events, lunches etc. So please keep an eye on this so you do not miss out.
* Could we please remind parents to ensure that their child has enough nappies and wipes for the week.
* Please can we ask that if your child is sent home in spare clothes that they are returned, we are getting low on our spare clothes. Alternatively if you are having a clear out and have any spare knickers, pants, socks and trouser we would gratefully accept them.

Kindest Regards

Beechoak Farm Team