

October 2018 Newsletter

Registered charity number 1023487



Parking and safety

We appreciate parking is limited and hope you are all managing to park safely and considerably within the parking bays. Overflow parking spaces are also available inside our car park. If you are using these spaces, please use the playground area to turn around and avoid turning by the front door to ensure the safety of children and parents/cares who are arriving. Please also remember to close the gate behind you after entering and leaving the car park.

Stay and play afternoon

Now the children have settled into Puddleducks, we would like to invite all parents/carers and children to our 'stay and play' afternoon on **Friday 12th October 1.45-2.45pm**. We hold stay and play sessions throughout the year, to give parents/carers the opportunity to spend time playing with their child's favourite friends, toys and activities at Puddleducks and to enable to parents/carers to meet and chat to all the staff.

Parents/cares meetings and LearningBook Instructions

The staff have been busy completing lots of assessments and observations using the LearningBook digital Learning Journey system. New families have now received login instructions for LearningBook via email and a letter in your child's tray. Please take time to look through the observations and photographs with your child, and feed in your own home Learning Journeys.

After consulting with our committee, we have decided to run parents/carers meetings during the afternoon, as we hope this may be a more convenient time. We will be issuing Summative assessments of your child's progress to date and holding parents/carers' meetings to discuss how they are settling in on Tuesday 30th October, from 1.45-4.00pm. To book an appointment to speak to your child's key person, please sign up on the booking form in the main entrance porch.

Autumn activities

During the next few weeks, we will be drawing the children's attention to the changes to the environment during autumn. We are providing opportunities for the children to explore and create with autumn leaves, conkers and pinecones, and learn some autumn themed songs. Please find attached medium term plans for more information.

We will also be taking the children in the Ducks group on an autumnal walk to Chalford Hill School woodland area on Monday 15th October. We would be very grateful for volunteers to walk with us. If you are free to help, please speak to a member of Puddleducks Staff.

Staff Training Courses

We undertake a regular program of staff training such as Safeguarding training and EYFS training. This year we are investing in all our staff team attending training around the ethos of 'In the moment planning' to further enhance our education and learning programme for the children. Pauline will also be attending Level 1 Forest School training to help us develop more ideas for outdoor learning and woodwork.

Coats, Clothing, Nappies and Wipes

As the weather is now becoming cooler, please remember to send a named warm and waterproof coat for your child to wear during outdoor play each day. Please also send a named change of clothes in your child's bag. If your child is in nappies, we kindly request you send in nappies and wipes with your child each day in your child's bag. Thank you!

Photographs

You should receive the photograph proofs from Leigh Hibbs within the next week or so. Please ensure you return your orders promptly. Thank you.

Remaining spaces

We now have very limited availability on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning, but plenty of spaces on a Thursday and Friday. If you would like to reserve a space to start now, or later in the year, please speak to Sarah.

DIARY DATES

Stay and Play afternoon
Friday 12th
October 1.45-2.45

Walk to Chalford Hill School
Monday 15th
October

Half Term
22nd – 26th
October

Kitchen Refit volunteer mornings
20th and 27th
October

Inset day (No Puddleducks)
Monday 29th
October

Start of term 2
Tuesday 30th
October

Parents/cares meetings
Tuesday 30th
October

Chilli and Band Night
Friday 2nd
November

Volunteers and Students

Liz Clarke (Joshua's mummy), is currently studying towards an Early Years Teacher Training postgraduate certificate at Gloucestershire University. As part of the course, Liz will be working at Puddleducks on Monday and Thursday mornings. We will also be joined by Katie Bailey (former TK pupil) who will be volunteering at Puddleducks on a Tuesday morning as part of her Gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

Kind regards

Sarah, Leibe, Pauline, Sue, Fiona, Julie and Louisa

Committee news

Fundraising

Firstly, a big thank you to those who came to the first fundraising meeting, and those who sent apologies. We are well underway organising chilli and band night on **November 2nd** and have also got an exciting multitude of ideas for other events through the year. These events are all with a view to raise the extra funds needed for our kitchen re-fit in October half term and for providing the children new and exciting play equipment in the outside area.

Chilli and Band

Tickets for our 'Day of the Dead' themed chilli and band night will go on sale this week. Please let staff or committee know if you would like to sell a bunch, or buy a bunch! (They are £12.50 per ticket). A list will go up on the door between the main hall and the cloak room for those who wish to sign up and help with various tasks, otherwise, get your costume ready if you wish, and we look forward to seeing you there.



Kitchen

Thank you to all those who have offered their help already for the weekends either side of half term (mornings of 20th/27th Oct). All help will be greatly received, particularly in putting together flat pack cupboards, ready for our fitter to fit. Another great help would be transporting all the old kitchen off-site. If anyone has the use of a van and can be around the first weekend, or at the start of the week, it would be incredibly helpful.

Give as you Live

This is another way you can help from the comfort of your own home, as we understand many aren't able to be involved in events and meetings. New customers to Give as You Live can raise a lot of money for Puddleducks: Waitrose are offering a £20 donation to new Give as You Live customers on their first and second shop if you spend over £80. WOW. Please if you can, this would be an amazing donation for us to receive. Tesco are offering £7.50 to new customers who shop over £120, or £5 on a shop over £100 Sainsbury's and Ocado also offer donations of £1.50, or £3, and obviously the donations from existing customers are hugely beneficial too.

www.giveasyoulive.com



Recycling

You will have received a list of items we can recycle to raise funds for Puddleducks. Please keep bringing the items in as this is a great way for us to raise funds from items you would otherwise put in the bin! If you are able to help with the recycling, please contact chairpuddleducks@yahoo.com.

Thank you again to all those who help out with fundraising. Puddleducks wouldn't manage without the top up each year our fundraising provides. Plus, hopefully you'll all enjoy the fun events we throw along the way.



Please send in your waste:

Biscuit wrappers
Kenco Coffee packaging
Tassimo packaging and pods
Cleaning lids including trigger sprays
Personal care and beauty product lids
Ellas Kitchen pouches
Pens

Kind regards,

Emily, Kirsty, Alex and Vicky (Trustees of the committee)