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Hi folks,

 Welcome to the first of our newsletters. We felt that now we were a little bit busier that it would be a good way to keep you all informed about news and events; at the very least it will provide you with something to burn on the looming cold winter nights.

 You may or may not be aware that Carol has spent the last five years working towards a Bachelor’s Degree in the Early Years which we are very proud to announce that she has now completed. She is now officially smarter than a 10 year old and politely requests that we all call her ‘Sir’ or ‘Your Majesty’ from now on.

 Autumn is now well and truly upon us so we are really looking forward to the fun that the change in seasons brings. Expect lots of crafty bits and bobs to be winging their way to your fridge doors/display boards over the next month or so. Also, with the weather getting colder please remember that we like to spend as much time outside as we can so please can the children come dressed appropriately or if you prefer you can leave spare wellies/winter coats here with us so we always have them to hand.

 With the changing weather in mind we thought it may be a good idea to remind of our policy regarding illnesses. If you child has been sick or had diarrhoea then please keep them at home for a minimum of 24 hours after the last episode so as to reduce the risk of spreading it. We do appreciate how difficult that can be with people’s varying work commitments but the knock-on effects can impact on everybody else; particularly if we come down with it as then we are unable to look after anyone’s children.

 While we are on the doom and gloom part of the newsletter we need to mention the dreaded ‘M’ word. As childminding is the sole source of income for our whole family it’s kind of important that we get paid on time (as is the case for most people). Currently we are about one week into October and we have only received one third of our ‘wages’ and the Bank Manager has started to get a bit twitchy about it. If you are having problems then please come and speak to us about it and we can look into other options such as weekly invoicing or advice with Tax Credits/Vouchers. We have always shied away from introducing late payment penalties as we felt it was far too formal for our style but we are rapidly running out of ways to approach this.

 Anyway…………………that’s enough about that! We feel so privileged to be working with such a lovely bunch of people and children, we were quite worried when we re-located that it wouldn’t be the same but it is and we are sooooooo pleased. All of the children are coming along in leaps and bounds and while most of them will always try to make you feel guilty for leaving them with us we can assure you all that they have so much fun and we spend most of our days laughing, smiling and tickling.

Kind Regards

 Carol & Nik