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Hey guys,

Ok……….confess! Which one of you turned off the sun? Just like that it feels like we’ve skipped past Autumn and gone straight Into Winter. 🥶🥶

**Outdoor Play**

Now that It’s getting a lot wetter and colder can we all please ensure that the little ones have suitable clothing for outdoor play. They will need:

* All-In-one splash suit
* Wellies
* Hat
* Gloves (not mittens)

We are more than happy for these Items to be kept here If that makes life easier.

**Christmas Hours**

Please see the end of this newsletter for Information about our working days/hours over the Christmas and New Year period, could we also please ask everyone to confirm that they will still be needing the same days/hours from January. If you do need to make any changes then please let us know sooner rather than later as It can make everything much easier to organise.

**Early Years Funding**

For those of you that are due to start or are currently receiving 30 hours of funded childcare please don’t forget that your eligibility needs to be re-confirmed each term for the following term. You should receive a reminder email but we know from experience that these don’t always come through. Also If you are planning on splitting your child’s funded hours between more than one setting then It Is really Important that we know beforehand as we have to liaise with the other setting about claiming the funding because If the claims don’t correspond properly then neither of us gets paid on time.

Also, If your child Is due to start Primary School in September 2022 then please bear In mind that you must submit your application before Saturday 15th January 2022. You can find out more Information at:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-primary-school-place-20222023/>

**Changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

You may or may not be aware that the EYFS has undergone a major overhaul last month, there’s nothing at all for anyone to worry about It will just make a small change to the way In which we follow and report upon the children’s progress. Basically the DfE have simplified the age ranges for “expected” development. Instead of having the overlapping age ranges (0-11 months, 8-20 months, 16-26 months, etc) there will now simply be:

* Birth to 3 Years
* 3 and 4 Year Olds
* Children In Reception

It seems what they are trying to do Is emphasise that all

children learn and develop at different speeds and just because little Johnny Is 2 months behind In his pre-writing skills It doesn’t necessarily mean that there Is something wrong.

We have also recently been looking Into dipping our toes into online Learning Journeys. As much as we love the way the way that we do the children’s folders and the way that It creates a lasting memory we are also very aware that It Is not the most sustainable and environmentally friendly way of doing them and It looks Increasingly old-fashioned with every year that passes (The first person that makes a “but you are really old Nik!” joke will regret It next time they are picking up In the rain!) We think It Is probably something we are going to gradually phase In over the coming years.

**The Great Lowestoft Bake Off**

From Tuesday 19th October to Thursday 21st October we are gonna be getting our bake on for charity. Each day we will be doing a few baking activities with the children for them to bring home and there will also be a selection of delicacies available courtesy of the skilled baking hands of Nik, all we will be asking for Is a small donation on the day which will be passed on to a fabulous charity that we support called COTE (Children on the Edge) which supports marginalised, misplaced and forgotten children from all over the World and helps them to access things that we take for granted such as the right to an education. You can read a little bit more about the work that they do here:

<https://www.childrenontheedge.org/whoweare.html>

That’s all for today folks, hopefully this newsletter makes you feel all warm and cosy Inside and If not then perhaps It’s time to turn the heating on.

**Much Love**

**Carol & Nik.**

**Term Dates (**for Early Years Funded Children)

Autumn Term Begins – Monday 6th September

Autumn Half Term – Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October

Last Day of Autumn Term – Friday 17th December

**Christmas Dates**

Last Working Day - Wednesday 22nd December

Back to Work - Tuesday 4th January 2022