Carol & Nik White

The Old Vicarage, Station Road

Lowestoft. Suffolk

NR32 4QF

(01502) 450059

www.carolandnik.com

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 Hey guys,

 Just thought we’d take 10 minutes away from the glitter and glue of Christmas fun to send you a quick end of year newsletter.

**Christmas Hours and Spring Term Dates**

 Please see the list at the end of this newsletter for our Christmas and New Year working days and Spring Term dates for children that only use their Early Years Funding sessions with us. We have also included the dates for our much delayed holiday (only 2 years late!)

**Early Years Funding**

 Don’t forget that If you are receiving the additional 15 hours of Early Years Funding for eligible working parents then this needs to be re-verified every term. You should receive an email to remind you but the system does not always work perfectly.

If your child Is due to start using their Early Years funding (term after their 3rd birthday) and you are eligible for the additional 15 hours then you must apply during the term before and the system should generate an 11 digit code starting with 500 that we need otherwise the hours cannot be claimed for. If your child has turned 3 already and you are not sure If you are eligible then head over to childcarechoices.gov.uk for more information and to apply

**Fees**

 We’ve been trying to put this off as long as possible but as of April 2022 we will be Increasing our fees to £5.00 per hour. With the recent Increases to the costs of living and soaring energy costs we have no choice If we want to remain sustainable.

**Keeping Safe**

As you all will have seen from recent media coverage and the re-Introduction of certain safety precautions unfortunately COVID-19 Is still very much a part of our lives. We feel that the measures we have In place with the cleaning and rotating of resources, hand sanitising at the gate, one parent in at a time and doorstep drop offs continue to be appropriate and would ask that everyone continues to be vigilant. There have been quite a few Incidences recently of children coming In clutching toys or games from home, this Is something we have always tried to discourage as It can cause conflict between the children but even more so now during these times.

We have been testing twice weekly since last June and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future and we would ask that everyone Is equally cautious.

**Illness**

 OK, It’s the biggie! After the catastrophe of last Christmas without families around us It Is really Important to everyone that we all remain as fit and healthy as possible. Please please please err on the side of caution about sending your child In If you suspect they are unwell, the amount of nasty bugs and Illnesses that are around at the moment Is terrifying, waaaay more than we would usually expect to see at this time of year (even the chickens have to stay Indoors at the moment because of bird flu!)

 Please be vigilant around the signs and symptoms of COVID, the Infection numbers In young children are truly staggering at the moment and although for the most part they are asymptomatic It still Is not nice for them and potentially life changing for those that are not as fit and healthy; even one of our own fit and healthy children Is still suffering the effects of long COVID one year after contracting It.

**Looking Ahead**

 With a few of our little crazy gang heading off after Christmas for their next big adventure could we please ask that you keep us In the loop with any future plans you may have. Not only are we an awesome source of help and Information but It really helps us to plan ahead. We have enquiries coming In regularly, anything up to a year In advance, and we really don’t like having to let people down to then find out the following week that there would have been a suitable space. In the same respect If you were thinking that In the future that you might like your child might do more days/hours than they currently do then the earlier you let us know the more likely It Is we will be able accommodate you, particularly when It comes to Early Years funding spaces as these are limited.

That’s all for this newsletter folks, we’re gonna head back over to the craft table and continue filling all of your children’s ears with glitter and putting paint underneath their fingernails………you’re welcome. 😆

 **Much Love**

**Carol & Ni**

**Autumn 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

**Spring Term Dates**

(For Early Years Funded Children)

Spring Term Begins - Monday 10th January 2022

Spring Half Term: Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February

Last Day of Spring Term - Friday 8th April.

**Holiday Dates**

Carol & Nik off - Friday 6th May - Friday 20th May (Inclusive)