



The enlightened choice of Childcare

March 2016

Connect Childcare

With the beginning of spring comes a new way of working for us at Jesters. We have very recently brought a new Integrated Management System called Connect Childcare.

Connect Childcare gives back valuable time to Out of School Clubs and nurseries by making every day processes, like records, registers, billing, data analysis quick and simple. Not only is Connect helpful in linking staffing, finance and communications into one platform, for us in Jesters we trust it will change how you as Parents/ Carers receive information more efficiently.

We are still in the early stages of transferring all the children's records onto this secure system. We would therefore appreciate it if you could check your child's registration forms next time you are in to ensure they are up to date if you have not already done so.



Staff update

Last month we welcomed Becky to our team. Becky is qualified to Level 3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development and has 7 years experience working in the Childcare sector. Becky previously worked in a Day Nursery where she was Room Leader in the Pre School room. Becky also holds a BA (Hons) in Music from Colchester Institute. When at Jesters Becky enjoys being outside with the children and being creative. She is looking to gain experience with the older children and eventually wants to become a Primary School Teacher.



Sadly we said goodbye to Sophie last month who has left us to study a Nursing degree at Anglia Ruskin in Chelmsford. Our Apprentice, Hope is also leaving to finish her studies at Seymour House Day Nursery where she needs to gain experience working with the under 3's. We would like to wish them both all the best in their studies.

With Hope leaving us we are left with a vacant shift of 25 hours. We really value parental engagement to successfully recruit to this Playwork post. We are looking for a highly experienced/ qualified Childcare Professional to start with us from 4th April. If you can recommend anyone who is looking for a job in Early Years or Youth please ask them to email us with their C.V or drop in for a chat.



Opening hours

We open at 7:15am and close at 6:30pm.

If you are going to be late please try and find someone else to pick your child/ children up. Constant lateness will result in extra charges on your monthly bills.

If your child is going to be absent please call us by 8:15 am for Breakfast Club children and by 2:30pm for After School Club children.

We understand the busy lives of all our families however we have noticed an increase in lateness which is creating added pressure for staff and transport arrangements. It is paramount to us that we get all children to school on time.

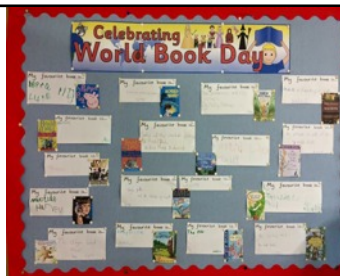
Children who require breakfast with us need to be in before 8am and all children need to be in by 8:20am. Anyone arriving after this time may be asked to take their children to school if vehicles have either left or if it jeopardises other children being late for school.

Displays

The children and staff have been working very hard recently creating some fantastic new displays using general art work and celebrating national and worldwide festivals. Please take time to have a look at all their hard work when you come in.

Our aim is to rotate these boards at least every 2 weeks so keep your eyes peeled for new boards.

Please feel free to let us know if there is anything you would like us to celebrate on one of our boards.



Children's Uniform

Keeping children safe and visible is our prime objective, we therefore ask that from the Summer holidays all children booked on a trip now wear one of our red Jesters polo-shirts. Previously the purchasing of the polo shirts has been on an optional basis, however not only do the children look fantastic when on a trip the benefits of escorting have influenced our decision to make it mandatory.

Polo shirts are sold at £7.20 each and are available in the following sizes: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-11 years.

After many requests from parents we are delighted to now be able to offer Jesters sweatshirts. These will be optional and will be sold at £10.50 each in the following sizes: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-11 and 12-14 years.



To order please speak to a member of staff and state the size required.

Upcoming Holiday Clubs

May Half Term-

Messy May: 30th May- 3rd June
We will be open for the Non Pupil day 6th June



Summer Holidays-

Lets get cooking: 18th- 22nd July



Wet and Wild: 25th July- 5th Aug



Olympics: 8th- 19th Aug



Jungle Mayhem: 22nd Aug- 2nd Sept
We will be open for the Non Pupil day on 5th Sept

Trip days will be confirmed shortly and will cost between £10 and £15. There will be one trip a week but the days will vary week from week.



Garden Time

It is important to us that children are kept fit and healthy and therefore we actively encourage children to access our large, well equipped outdoor area every evening and all day during the school holidays (unless its pouring down with rain). Please can you therefore ensure children always have a coat with them.

We are delighted to inform you that between 2nd and 6th April we are having a new path laid leading from the back door to the new log cabin and from the back door round the old log cabin to join with the existing path.



Packed Lunches

During Holiday Club all children need to have a healthy packed lunch.

We are strictly a No Nut Club so please ensure all items in lunch boxes including sandwich fillers are nut free. We have children and staff with nut allergies.

Whilst most lunch boxes look delicious and healthy some are a little less so and overly filled with crisps and chocolate. We would really value your support in trying to get the packed lunches more balanced and nutritious.



Tea Menu

Its coming to that time of year again where we need to start thinking about changing over to our Summer menu.

If you have any suggestions of mains or desserts that you would like included please let us know by Thursday 24th March.

We can not guarantee every suggestion will be included but we will do our best to include as much as we can- please make your suggestions as healthy as possible.

We will always include either salad or vegetables with the main meal and fruit is always available if the dessert itself does not contain fruit.

Our menu operates on a 2 week rotation.

February Half term

We all had a fantastic time at Half Term with our Wild West theme.

The week got off to a great start with a trip to the Rio cinema in Burnham-on-Crouch to see 'Alvin and the Chipmunks- Road Trip'. The children were fantastic and a real credit to the Club.



On Tuesday we spent the morning panning for gold in the sandpit and made Yarn dolls in the afternoon.

On Wednesday we made Indian headbands in the morning which all looked fantastic and used clay to sculpt some cactus'. All the children got quite messy but had lots of fun.

On Thursday we played a group game of cowboys. We selected 3 children at a time to be cowboys/ cowgirls and they had to try and catch all the others using a hoop (lasso). This was their favourite activity of the week.

On Friday we made Western wraps and cactus juice. All the children got involved in cutting up vegetables and bacon as well as grating cheese. They then selected their ingredients to wrap up with puff pastry. The end results were delicious. In the afternoon we created our own 'wanted' posters.

A fantastic week was had by all :)

We would love for you to spread the word about our popular fun themed holiday clubs. If you know anyone looking for childcare for their 3-12 year olds please direct them to our constantly up to date and informative website: www.jesterskidsclub.org

