

KIDS CLUB

NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2018

Welcome

Everyone at Ecclesall Kids club would like to welcome parents and children, new and old to our fantastic new primary kids club. We have been very busy over Summer designing our play offer which you can find out about in this newsletter. Our staff have been working really hard over summer to pack up and move in, source new ideas and resources and upskill in in safeguarding, promoting positive behaviour, customer service and health and safety.

We are now a big club and to enable this and create an environment that appeals to all ages we have made some changes and are trialling new ideas using what we've learnt from other mixed age clubs. Please bear with us whilst we try new ways of working and become used to operating in our new space. Please see our website for information about our club and team.

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Our new provision

We are now a primary club and to enable this we have introduced a more structured provision to appeal to different age groups that works well in the space we now have.

As we need to set up our play resources from 2.45pm each day from scratch and feed-up to 125 children our new session plan is designed to help with this. For example we are trialling a later snack time which means we can focus on setting up the play resources before children arrive, there is always fruit available for children who are hungry when they get to kids club.

We now have a mixed age crafting and messy play hub in the dining room. A tech and Games Zone for and outdoor play is split into infant and junior age children on busy days. We also have 2 full sized tennis tables and around 70 board games at our disposal as well as lots of other new age appropriate resources for building, exploring and creating.

We have free flow enabling children to move from our inside to outside areas. We are using walkie talkies a lot to keep track of children and to ensure we have the correct ratio of staff to children in each area.

When we get really busy we are able to spill over into the Hall or studio when they are not being used by other clubs.

Like school we hope to open up our space soon so our parents can see what we offer but we need to do this in a planned way so we are fully aware of who we have in our space and where they are to fulfil safeguarding requirements and fire safety too. We have a much bigger space to look after now and are accountable for everyone we let in to the building just as school are during the day, this is why we have our new "reception area" for pick up.

Breakfast Club drop off

Please park outside school if your drop off time is after 7.55am to enable teaching staff to access school and use the car park.

Why cancelling your places is important?

We lose at least 4 hours of staff time with your children each week trying to locate children who haven't turned up to club.

Thank you to parents who have been cancelling sessions you don't need, we are a very busy club and we can't carry surplus places for last minute bookings which we all need from time to time. By cancelling sessions you don't need it frees up spaces for other parents. Our staff also spend a significant amount of time each week trying to trace children who haven't turned up to club, under safeguarding rules we only have a short window to report a child who is genuinely missing, school do tell us if your child hasn't been in school that day but they won't know if they've gone on play date for example. We have a waiting list for Tuesday and Wednesday afterschool now so we need your help to enable other parents to access your spare places.

We want to phase the cancellation period down (for you to receive a credit) from 30 days, we are nearly at the point where we can start to afford to start to do this so please be considerate to other parents and cancel your unrequired places at the earliest opportunity.

We are also looking at ways to make it easier to cancel on the day and are currently exploring a later closing time.

New faces

Three new playworkers, Kate Barnes, Faris Ali and Ed Staniforth, have joined us this term. They all are keen sports people who are looking forward helping us deliver better outdoor play.

Crafting Crazy

As always we have been doing some amazing crafts. We have been adapting our crafts to ensure they can be accessed by all ages and are still offering things that are a little more challenging for our older children. So far this half term we have been making paper plate whales, socktopus octopus, textured turtles and fishing rod games.



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

This section of our newsletter is normally devoted to what we are doing with our new reception children but as its early days we thought we'd talk about what we are doing to settle the children in. All new reception parents and their children will have completed an "All About me" Booklet over the Summer, this will help us to support your child and settle them into club by letting us know early on what will make them feel most at home.

The Club follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and whilst we are exempt from the learning goals of this we do support school by building on their curriculum through play and fun. Each reception child has a named Keyworker who will be making a folder of your child's first year with us. This folder will show how they've grown and developed whilst in our club.. Emma Thackery is the lead EYFS practitioner for our setting, she has been meeting many of our new parents and walking them around our club, please feel free to speak to her or your child's keyworker at any time.

Food Glorious Food

As we have to offer a later snack, this has enabled us to offer a better choice of snack or cooked snack rather than wraps and toast which some children become bored with or so they keep telling us! We now have small bowls of pasta, noodles, beans on toast and soup on our menu. We are always happy to offer a wrapped option where parents arrive early as well, children know to ask for a take out if they are in the queue when you arrive.

Having snack later means we have time to create the play environment and offer something different for main snack, as the children have been playing they are also more likely to sit down, relax and eat as a large mixed group. To support 5 a day, on arrival children have a choice of fruit and veg with their drink as an energy boost before they go outside or into the TEC Games Zone. With main snack we also offer further dried fruit, crudités and yoghurts.

