

# KIDS CLUB

## NEWSLETTER



March 2022

### Bookings and Cancellations

We are pleased to say that bookings and cancellations are now switched back on in Magic Booking, this gives our parents maximum flexibility to use our service as they wish, 24/7 and allows the club to return to our former admin resourcing levels.

The cost burden to provide constant (but necessary) manual intervention during the pandemic had negated any cost benefits we have previously had from operating a parent led on line system. I'm sure you'll agree that Janet has done an excellent job managing manual interventions during the pandemic when we had to close and credit our parents and then again through operating bubbles with strict headcounts.

We realise moving back to self service is a change and a fairly new option for some of our newer parents, so help guides are available to support you on our website on the Magic Booking tab Out of school care for 4-11 year olds (ecclesallkids.club). We will still return to pre pandemic levels of admin support should you need our help. Our use of an on line system helps us to keep our session prices as low as possible.

### Please Cancel Your Unrequired Places On Magic Booking

We would be grateful if you could cancel your unrequired places on Magic Booking. If you are unable to do so please email the Ecclesall club gmail address. If it is on the day of the session (or after 6pm the evening before) please call the club and leave a message on our voicemail on **0114 2681116**. Teachers do tell us when we are picking up younger children that parents or carers have collected but we do spend unnecessary time searching for older children who should have been making their own way to club who may have gone to a play date or been collected from school. If we don't know why your child hasn't arrived and cannot find them we will have to call you and initiate our missing child procedures.

### Club Changes

Thank you to our parents and carers for your continued patience and understanding in these turbulent times. We are pleased to say that we have been able to provide a safe service and keep open this academic year despite some challenges. At the moment we are still running the club split between KS1 and KS2 children. The staff and the children prefer this arrangement as activities and spaces can be more effectively tailored to their age groups. Staff and child relationships are more easily formed with fewer children in their area and subject to continuing to secure the space we now have, we intend to continue this for the foreseeable future.

### Our Founder Member and Treasurer Is Moving on

**Tony Dobson**, who was a founder member of our not for profit club will be handing over the Treasurer role to **Grazina Manchester** after more than 20 years of voluntary service. We thank Tony for creating the successful club we have today as well as staying on way beyond his tenure to support our modernisation and then help to steer us through the challenges of the pandemic.

Please contact us on [ecclesallkids@gmail.com](mailto:ecclesallkids@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining our Committee, new members are always welcome and the Club cannot exist without our parent committee.

## Bookings for Academic Year September 2022/23 and Price Increase

We plan to open bookings for the next academic year in early March 2022, we will send communications out and texts from school to ensure you are aware of our go live dates. We recommend that if you need your places for the year that you book for the year especially if you need places on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as we are always at capacity at breakfast club and afterschool club. Sessions do not become payable until one month before the date of the first session you book and payments can be spread across a number of months. Any sessions cancelled more than 10 days before the date can be credited for future use or refunded manually by us (if you decide you do not wish to access our service).

In April 2022 we open up bookings to brand new reception users and we give priority for any places left by existing parents to new reception children who already have a sibling/s attending club. As we have less Y5 and Y6 children in club (and therefore moving

through or leaving us) than in previous years unfortunately we cannot guarantee places for new reception children on peak days including those who have siblings as our headcount is at the maximum allowed for our setting.

As child bookings taper down from Y4 onwards the number of older children leaving never matches the number of new users requesting places, except on Fridays and this problem is increasing as many of our sector alternatives have closed or rationalised their provision. Due to the impact of the pandemic on our finances we will need to introduce a price increase in the academic year 22/23 for breakfast club and afterschool, we will contact you with the new prices and reasons behind the increase prior to March Go live. Prices for this academic year (21/22) will remain unchanged, we will, as always, keep our prices as low as possible in accord with our not for profit ethos.

### Please Update Your Classes, Emergencies Contacts/ Medications And Allergies

Please ensure you go onto Magic Booking and update your data, we need to know which class to collect your child up from and who is allowed to collect them from club. We also need up to date medical and allergy information.

Keeping your data up to date is a condition of membership of the Club and School are not allowed to Data share with us routinely as we are not a School run Club. We need current information to safeguard your child.

### Fidget Toys and Labelling Personal Items

Please do not allow your child to bring fidget toys, Pokemon cards etc to the club. We are seeing increased amounts of these coming to club and then they are subsequently going missing or being swapped causing conflict and upset so we politely request that these are kept at home.

Ensure all items coming in to the club are labelled as this enables us to return them to their owners eg to all clothing, book bags and water bottles etc.

### Early Years Foundation (EYFS) and Children's Activities

The children have been doing lots of activities to prepare for the Year of the Tiger and the unusually good weather has meant a lot more outdoor play which the children love. This term our Early Years children have been doing lots of activities relating to the school topic which is 'Once Upon a Time'. We would like to say goodbye to Jayne Turner who has gained a teaching post and in her place we welcome Salwa our new Early Years apprentice to our EYFS team. Salwa joins our Early Years lead, Emma Thackery and Eva Gummer and is currently getting to know your children. When your child started the club you will have received some information about our EYFS team, please get in touch if you have not received this.

