

# KIDS CLUB

## NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2022

### Becoming a Charity

We are pleased to announce Ecclesall Kids Club is now registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission. We still have some work to do transfer our accounts and staff over to the new business model and we will also need to re-register with Ofsted due to our change in status. We will write to parents when those processes are completed. Our parents and children won't notice any difference in the service we offer or our charges but it means our business can run more smoothly, our parent Committee "trustees" are supported and that we can access help and resources that are unavailable to us in our previous status (a non-charitable not for profit organisation.)

### Child and Parent Survey

The children help to drive our service and each year we deliver a child survey to find out what the children's thoughts are. The results of the latest survey are here and there are some interesting insights from the children [Child-survey-results-2022.pdf](#) ([ecclesallkids.club](http://ecclesallkids.club))

We are using the children's feedback to shape our service, even looking at what we can do to improve the "smelly toilets". We didn't deliver a parent survey for a while due to the pandemic, this year we are going on line and will be emailing you to ask for your thoughts about the club. Please complete our survey as we want to hear what you think we do well and where we need to improve.

### Committee and AGM

We have a dedicated Committee of parents who run the club and make all the strategic decisions to support our delivery and ensure we can provide low cost, high quality childcare for our parents. Our current Committee is detailed on our website [Our Committee \(ecclesallkids.club\)](http://ecclesallkids.club), if you'd like to join please feel free to email us on [Ecclesallkids@gmail.com](mailto:Ecclesallkids@gmail.com) for more information.

We have a Committee led Annual General Meeting each year, this will take place on the 28th November in school at 7.15pm. Parent club users are welcome to join us and we will send a communication out with the details shortly.

### PARS

Emma Biddles who co-manages our setting has just completed her PARS practitioner training and we are starting to integrate elements of PARS into our play planning to make it less structured. PARS is an alternative approach to working with children in their leisure time.

PARS empowers adults to enable children to make their own choices about how they spend their leisure time, this is believed to increase children's social and emotional development and resilience.

## Our regular question spot – why are places are limited, can't you expand ?

We are asked regularly why we can't expand to offer all the places needed to clear our waiting lists or accommodate all the significant ad hoc requests we receive. We are operating at capacity and as an independent business, we currently rent all the spare room space that school has to offer (alongside the demand from other clubs who run at the same time). The school ensures all parents have a variety of options around which clubs their child can access. Space requirements are set out by our insurers and by Ofsted so we have to monitor the

staff and child numbers in each area carefully. Good quality staff are hard to recruit and retain in the current climate, our sector is under severe pressure with far more jobs than candidates, so it's important that we have the workforce to support increased numbers too. Parents cancelling unwanted spaces as soon as they are not needed helps with freeing up spaces for other parents who need them. Please remember if you cancel 10 days before the session you will receive a credit on your account for that session.

### Late pick ups

Please remember club closes at 6pm, Magic booking is set up to automatically apply a charge of £15 for any child checked out after 6pm. There is a cost to the club to retain two staff to look after a child who has not been collected on time and the £15 reflects that cost.

Safeguarding policies mean that two staff must also be present. Whilst we appreciate there may be occasions when parents are late due to circumstances outside their control and we are open to reviewing charge for a one off late pick up, please bear in mind that late pickups impact our staff who might miss their bus or are then late for their own nursery/childminder pick up time.

### EYFS and children's activities

Our EYFS topic this half term is colour, communities and celebrations. We have been focussing our play around activities connected with Diwali, Bonfire night and shortly Christmas. The children have been enjoying a variety of activities, from our new free choice craft resource trolleys where the possibilities are endless, to making the most of the crisp autumn weather playing outside with friends. As ever our technology areas are a popular choice, along with the independent children's choices of a variety of board games, books, small world, puzzles and more. Our quiet reading corner is also proving a popular addition.

### Late drop offs- cut off for breakfast service is 8.30am

Please note that we are packaway club and need to clean up and vacate the kitchens before the school kitchen staff and the school day start. We will not be able to serve breakfast for children dropped off after 8.30am. We will always offer a drink and a takeaway snack/ piece of fruit but the full breakfast service will have been cleared away by 8.30am.

### Learning what it means to have a reptile pet

The children enjoyed a visit from Scales and Tails who came to talk to us about caring for a pet reptile to encourage responsible reptile ownership. The children and the staff learnt a lot about the lizards, spiders and snakes they saw and touched as well as asking lots of very sensible and funny questions.

