



The Dolphin
Pre School and Nursery

January Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 28th Jan
Chinese New Year

Tuesday 14th Feb
Valentine's Day

Tuesday 28th Feb
Shrove Tuesday

Friday 24th March
Red Nose Day 2017

Sunday 26th Mar
Clocks change forward one
hour.

Mother's Day

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The Dolphin Family would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following Children during January

4th Matilda (3), 8th Hollie (3),  
15th Skylar (2), 16th  
Constance (4), 30th Mason (4)

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Welcome to our January newsletter, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and didn't eat too many chocolates or mince pies! December was a busy month with Christmas activities which we hope you all enjoyed as much as us. Every year the children are truly amazing and we love watching them perform, it was particularly special seeing the babies carol service this year but a massive well done to everyone involved.

Mellissa and Paul would like to thank you all for your support in 2016, losing our much loved Granny Wendy towards the end of the year really knocked the wind out of our sails, and took the spark off what was another great year for Dolphin.

But as we move into 2017 we have lots of things planned, we are excited and looking forward to starting to share them with you, but first we want to wish all our children, Parents/carers and Grand Parents a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

### Learning Themes

This month's learning themes for each room are:-

Little Tots - Winter

Busy Bees - Nursery Rhymes and Traditional stories

Pre School - Stories

### School Admissions - Reminder

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 you should have already applied for a primary school place. DCC's application website closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017 so it's not too late if you haven't. The website can be found at [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline). Please don't miss the deadline as it may mean you don't get your first choice school.

### Health Visitor check for 2 year olds

As part of our legal requirements for monitoring the development of children in our care we must complete an integrated review when a child reaches two. This is then used as part of the health visitors check they call children for around the time of their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. So that we can make sure you have the completed form available to take with you, it would help us greatly if you could let us know when you received the date this appointment.

### Doubling of government funded hours for eligible working parents

Early in 2016 the government committed to doubling the number of funded hours available to working parents of 3 and 4 year old children. In Sept 2016, they launched a number of pilot areas, these were quickly renamed 'early implementers' with a clear direction it will be rolled out nationally in Sept 2017.

For us there are has some potential issues that will need work through before we decide what our offer to parents will look like but if we can get it right then this is of course fantastic news. The extra funded hours for 'eligible' working parents, the criteria of which is still be finalised, will have an great effect of invoices. However one major problem is that at present the government, via Devon County, pay nearly £1 per hour less than our chargeable rate. These additional 'funded' hours have the potential to actually cost us money to provide, so whilst we will offering the additional funded hours we need to look at the structure of how we can make it variable. On a side note, any information coming out of the Government is proving to be very slow at the present but as soon as we have concrete information we will share it with you. We have started to produce a FAQ's sheet which will hopefully have some answers but please do bear with us, mis-information is more harmful than no information.

### Welcome to the Team

Following Cole's departure for pastures new we welcome Lisa and Sian to the Dolphin Family. Lisa has been childminding for the last 8 years and comes with a wealth of experience. Sian is a parent of little boy who attends and has always wanted a career in childcare and now is her time. And finally



Lisa Botham



Sian Pidgeon

congratulations to Chelsea for taking on the Supervisor role in Little Tots.