



The Dolphin
Pre School and Nursery

September Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

Clocks change back 1 hour

Sunday 29th Oct

Parents evening

W/c 30th October

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

Matthew 1<sup>st</sup>, Marnie 1<sup>st</sup>,  
Jessica 5<sup>th</sup>, Ruby 6<sup>th</sup>, Oliver  
13<sup>th</sup>, Sophie 22<sup>nd</sup> and Daisy  
24<sup>th</sup>.

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Welcome to our September newsletter, we hope everyone has enjoyed their summer holidays. We are very happy to see all the children back together at Dolphin after their summer at Gorfin Hall. September is such a busy time for children moving between rooms and new starters so we hope everyone settles in and of course any problems then please do speak to one of us.

### Learning Themes

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

Little Tots - Sensory and Exploration

Busy Bees - All About Me

Pre-school - All About Me

### Facebook Page - Reviews

As we have had many children leaving us for big school this will be the last newsletter for many of our wonderful parents. After reading all the amazing cards we received could we ask one last big favour. Could you take five minutes to pop over to our Facebook page and read us a very quick review. With social media being such a big part of so many of our lives prospective parents generally check Facebook before getting in contact. Reviews, give prospective parents an honest opinion of what we are really like.

Our page is here - [www.facebook.com/dolphinexmouth](http://www.facebook.com/dolphinexmouth)



### New Preschool Building

A huge thank you to everyone for their patience while the building work has taken place. We are happy to say it is now complete!! It's all been made worthwhile seeing all the children enjoying the new space and toys this week.

### Government Funded Hours - Extended Entitlement - A Summary

Most parents will have seen the recent launch of the extended funding for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds. Childcare providers are not required to offer these additional hours, however we want to fully support and work with our parents to reduce the cost of childcare. These additional hours are a great incentive for parents to be able to work more without the worry of increased bills, children also get to further their knowledge, skills and fun time with us. However as in many cases there is a BUT, the hourly rate being offered by the government is much less per hour than our normal rate. This reduced rate affects our ability to cover our costs, staff cost being our biggest and I'm sure you will agree the team put a lot of effort into nurturing, educating, planning, observing and assessing all the children on a daily basis.

As mentioned in our Mid May update, from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept we have introduced an additional services charge which covers things that government admit aren't included in the funding rate they pay. Things like snacks, crafts, sun cream, outings and much more, to highlight just how silly the funding scheme is I've attached a petrol station analogy which explains it perfectly.

The charge will consist of:

- £5 per week for children accessing the 11 hours funding.
- £10 per week for parents eligible to claim the extended 22 hours funding.

## A petrol station analogy

Very tongue in cheek but hopefully it explains the situation.

*Dear hardworking parents,*

*We as a government have decided to give you a free tank of petrol every month because you need petrol to get to work. It seems only right we should do this to help you, petrol is an expensive every day essential. Unfortunately, you won't be entitled if you earn more than £100k as we can only afford to support those who really need it.*

*Dear BP, Esso, Shell, Texaco, Tesco, Morrison, Asda etc.*

*We've promised a lot of people a free tank of fuel, for which you will be paid 80p per litre, or 75p, 81p, 99p or 52p - this will depend on where you live. Also, there will be two different rates in your area depending on the age of the car being fuelled.*

*Those who are entitled to our free fuel must receive it free of charge at the point of delivery.*

*So if you normally charge a higher rate you cannot ask customer to pay the difference.*

*However you may charge parents for any additional services you chose to offer, perhaps providing gloves, paper towels, hand-writing calligraphic receipts, washing windscreens, tyre polishing and such like.*

*Customer must be able to opt out of these extra services if they wish and you must not charge a higher rate for these services to those who are receiving free fuel than to those who pay for non-funded fuel. You will comply with all our rules, which may be slightly different from county to county. And we might change those rules from time to time.*

*We know you're just as excited about the scheme as we are, so you'll be delighted to know that from September we are expanding the offer to allow some people two tanks of fuel! Isn't that generous of us! We've worked our some figures so you'll soon be able to work out what you'll get paid from September as it not be 80p any more (or 75p, 81p, etc.) People who are entitled to two tanks will be given a code, so just make sure you get the code and its checked so you don't give two tanks to those entitled to only one.*

*By the way, customers will be allowed to fill up part tanks at different garages.*

*You agree that if you're ever overpaid, you will pay it back. For example, if a customer over claimed their fuel entitlement.*

*There'll be a grace period in case anyone's circumstances change between the first and second tank. But don't worry about that for now!! Do tell everyone how keen you are to offer free fuel and it'll all work out in the end.*

*Don't miss out, remember if you don't offer our free fuel, your competitors will and you have any customer left probably!!!*