

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our pre-school. We hope that both you and your child will enjoy what should be a very special year in your child's life.

For some this may be your first contact with Jolly Pirates or indeed any form of child care/education. It may be an anxious time for you both. We hope that by reading this booklet you may find the answer to many of your questions, if not please feel free to ask.

Please keep this booklet as a reference, as it contains most of the information you should need throughout the year.

I hope we have a happy year together.

Angela McGarvey (Room Supervisor)

It is the intention of everyone at Jolly Pirates Pre-school that each child should be given the following opportunities:

- 1 A safe, secure, healthy and stimulating environment where there is adequate supervision at all times.
- 2 Opportunities to investigate, satisfy their curiosity, explore the environments inside and outside the playroom, extend their sense of wonder, experience success and develop a positive attitude toward learning for life.
- 3 Appropriate periods of time for learning through sustained involvement in play.
- 4 Interaction with sensitive and understanding adults. It is important that children feel secure in their relationships with adults and that they know that the adults are there to support them.
- 5 Adults who will treat them as individuals and sensitively participate in their play.

Given these needs it follows that young children require a curriculum which:-

Meets their physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs at their particular stage of development.

A wide curriculum will be offered that motivates, challenges and stimulates each child and also one that is broad balanced allowing each child to make choices and providing them with opportunities through play and other sensory experiences, to develop their learning skills. These skills will be developed and associated within the following 6 areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development and Movement
- The Arts
- Language Development
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- The World around Us

We will aim to ensure that each child has the opportunity to:

- 1 Feel happy and secure at Jolly Pirates Pre-School.
- 2 Receive assistance from all staff and parents to settle smoothly into his/her new environment.
- 3 Create a working partnership between home and school.
- 4 Help each child develop at their individual rate.
- 5 Help each child adapt to the group situation within Jolly Pirates.

- 6 Help and encourage each child to communicate his/her thoughts, ideas and feelings clearly to both adults and peers.
- 7 Grow in confidence and develop a positive self-image.
- 8 Encourage links with our local community and local feeder school's.
- 9 Encourage a love of and excitement in books, stories, rhymes, songs and music and also a respect for books.
- 10 Deepen and lengthen his/her concentration span, through his/her natural, spontaneous curiosity and interest.
- 11 Encourage all children to take responsibility for care and storage of equipment, resources etc. in pre-school and at home and the world around us.
- 12 Encourage good habits of health and hygiene.
- 13 Be aware of the value of childhood for every individual.
- 14 Help each child transfer smoothly to the next stage of his/her education.

WHAT WILL JOLLY PIRATES OFFER YOUR CHILD?

Jolly Pirates is part of Jolly Rodgers Day Nursery, Jollyrodgers has run its own pre-school for the past 16 years, under the guidance of the local trust. It is a very welcomed addition that Jolly Pirates has been formed under the guidance of the E.t.i, offering high quality learning experiences under the current

curriculum. Jolly Pirates has completed a very successful preschool year. Each child has had valuable learning experiences each day. Jolly Pirates was inspected under ETI in November 2012 , after being opened just over one year and the preschool received "GOOD" with areas of "VERY GOOD" within the report. Staff and management are delight with this report and aim to continue to develop under guidelines for the national curriculum.

Yearly, monthly and weekly plans will be made available throughout the term to allow you to contribute to your child's learning experiences within the home. Throughout the year various visits and outings will be arrange to correspond with our plans. We also use the our web page to inform you of outings and activities throughout the month.

Parental input is very welcome in all aspects of life within Jolly Pirates Pre-School.

It is now widely recognised that a pre-school education is of great value. At Jolly Pirates we have trained pre-school staff that are able to provide a wide range of opportunities for the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of each individual child in our care.

We activity welcome and encourage your support and interest in our day-to-day activities. This enables your child to gain a positive attitude towards pre-school and a sense of security in his/her new environment.

During their time at Jolly Pirates the staff will be aware of the development of each child and his or her individual needs; observations of all developmental stages will be recorded and discussed with you daily as required but also formally at schedule parent/teacher interviews.

The staff will help each child to form stable relationships with his/her peers and other adults outside the family circle, thus encouraging a sense of

responsibility and consideration for others and their varied cultures. This new found independence helps to develop his/her self-confidence and self esteem.

The wide variety of materials provided in the school, i.e. art and craft, sand, water, dough paint etc. give the children the opportunity to be creative and expressive. Please feel free to bring any junk art material for use in our activities e.g., empty boxes, cartons.

Language development is also a very important part of our curriculum. We encourage the children's use of language in a variety of situations, including the use of books, stories, poetry, rhymes and songs and varied play situations.

At every opportunity the staff are there to enable the children to learn and achieve success through the materials provided and also to stimulate his/her curiosity, thus encouraging his/her intellectual development.

Equally important is the child's ability to use his/her body effectively, by providing the opportunity to run, climb, slide, cycle etc. in the safety of an enclosed play area on a daily basis.

Easy access to the bathroom encourages training in personal hygiene and independence whilst toileting.

Pre-school provides your child with his/her first 'taste' of school It is, therefore, vitally important that we (you and I) 'get it right'.

Jolly Pirates, has many resources, including use of the sensory room in Jolly Rodgers Day Nursery and use of the minibus/cars for outings and a safe outdoor play area and garden area. Just as you go to work each day, so will your child. His/her 'work' is play - and learning through play is 'hard work'.

This is a very exciting time for your child, to be encouraged by you. We look forward to working with you through out the coming year.

Please read attached booklet 'Learning through Play'

HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

After your visit to the Jolly Pirates, please tell your child about preschool, explain what you saw. Tell them about the equipment e.g. Sand and water tray , art and craft, lets pretend area, our quiet reading area , nature table, outside play area and about all the things they will do and the fun it will be when they start and the new friends they will be able to play with.

Before your child starts Jolly Pirates in August, try to read to them as much as possible and try to have a bedtime story every night.

Encourage them to become a little more independent, perhaps they could learn to put on their own coat. If they are not used to being away from you, perhaps you could arrange for them to spend short times with grandparents or friends, while you do the shopping etc.,

Always be honest with them, prepare them for when they will stay at pre-school on their own, and, please tell them you will be back for them, Show them their enclosed "Invite to Play" and mark the date on your calendar, Thursday 23rd August , 6.15pm-7.15pm, talking each week about Jolly Pirates Pre-School.

In the first few weeks or months, you will probably find that your child will be quite tired when he/she returns home. An early bedtime routine is vitally important if he/she is to be ready to enjoy the activities the next day.

Bring your child regularly to school. Failure to attend will result in your child losing his/her place at Jolly Pirates Pre-School. Children are happiest in an established routine, and regular attendance allows him/her to settle quickly into our routine.

At Jolly Pirates Pre-School we encourage all children to complete a given task before leaving it. The activities are appropriate for the children and we do not expect anything unrealistic. At home, perhaps, you could encourage your child in the same fashion. Such support is very much appreciated.

REMEMBER, THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP FOR YOUR CHILD AND HE/SHE DOES NEED ALL YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

Please remember that we are always available to discuss any problems or worry you or your child may have. No matter how trivial you may think it is, talk sooner rather than later and all our problems will be little ones.

Please note that although it is imperative that you arrive in pre-school exactly on time as it does help staff to get the session started punctually and it is important that you are punctual when collecting your child, if you are going to be late a telephone call would be greatly appreciated. As Jolly Rodgers Day Nursery continues to run throughout the day.

For working parents Jolly Rodgers Day Nursery can offer continuous day-care from 7.30am to 9.30 am prior to Jolly Pirates Pre-School and continuous care until 6pm after Jolly Pirates Pre-School finishes at 12.00pm. Contact Nicola McDonnell for prices and availability if this service is required.

ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

If for any reason your child is unable to come to pre-school please contact us on 07970907074 before 8.30am.

Please do not bring your child to school if they are ill, even if they insist that they must come. Please keep us informed of any condition your child may suffer from. Medication will only be given in exceptional circumstances and with prior written consent from parents allowing pre-school supervisor or nursery manager to administer medicine. See attached exclusions policy.

SETTLING IN PROCEDURE

Please see Settling In Policy, this may vary as we are aware some children will require longer than others to settle. Good communication with staff will ensure this is done, please speak to staff if you have any concerns.

TOYS

Many children feel more secure in school if they have brought something with them from home, a small toy, piece of blanket, teddy bear etc. Please do not discourage this, but limit it to one small item. After your child has settled in Jolly Pirates, there will be no need to bring a toy. At this stage, anything brought to school should be left on their peg/box. It is preferred that after settling in 'home' toys are not brought to pre-school. Staff do not take responsibility for toys brought to Jolly Pirates Pre-School.

CLOTHING

The children do not wear a formal school uniform but a sweatshirt is available from Jolly Pirates priced £7.50, and a polo shirt priced £4.95, jog bottoms £5.95 and coats £12.00.(these prices are subject to change by our supplier). Ideally for comfort we would suggest that all children order polo top's and sweat shirts. Children should always bring their coat to school, please dress them comfortably and remember that they may not be as clean when they get home. Could you also provide a pair of black plimsolls/trainers for indoor play? To ensure that our children have outdoor play as often as possible, please provide 'wellie boots and a weatherproof coat' all year round please. All clothing should be named, see enclosed name tag order form.

PRE-SCHOOL FUND

A Pre-school Fund is in place. It is possible to pay this each term or annually in September, please ask for details. Please place the correct money/cheque into an envelope with your child's name marked on the front. Fund money will contribute to our end of term parties and any outings.

To pay each term the fees are set out as below:-

Sept- Dec £30.00

Jan- March £25.00

Apr- June £25.00

Annual fee £80.00

SNACKS

During the session, the children will have a drink and something to eat. Part of your Pre-school Fund contribution will be used to provide a healthy snack. Pre-school follow a healthy eating policy and food tasting policy.

BIRTHDAYS

If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday at pre-school please feel free to send a cake which will be shared at snack time. All cakes brought into the nursery must be "nut free."

INTEREST TABLE

Some months, the children will be asked to bring a favourite toy, or a certain item to school for a topic we may be covering within our plans. The children are encouraged to tell the others about what they have brought and often it encourages even the quietest child to participate. We will also ask parents to participate throughout the year, e.g. If a parent is a fireman, we would invite the parent to attend Pre-school in their uniform and talk to the children about their role and how they help us. We will also ask parents to help us celebrate traditional festivals within the setting from many cultures.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

On a pre-arranged date in Jolly Pirates, a photographer will visit the pre-school to take individual and group photographs. You will receive good notice of this. Throughout the year, we will also be photographing the children at work. These will be displayed in the room and used during observations and also for marketing purposes.

OTHER ADULTS

If, for some reason, you have to arrange for another person to collect your child from Jolly Pirates, please let us know in writing, in advance of collection. The named person who is to collect in your child, in your absence will be asked to produce photographic I.D before your child will be released to them. Please note also that children should be brought to and from pre-school by an adult at all times.

If this adult is not a named adult on our school collection sheet, or we have not been informed by you in writing, we will not release the child without making contact with you.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

While we are available on a daily basis to talk to you about your child's progress, we also provide occasions for more detailed discussion, one before Easter and the other in early summer. At the end of our first term you will receive a written report from staff regarding how your child has settled etc we trust you will find these valuable and informative. Of course, if you wish to speak to us at another time, we will be very pleased to do so.

We look forward to having your child in our pre-school group and hope they benefit from their experience with us.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet and if you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Gail Rodgers (Owner)
Nicola McDonnell (Manageress)
Angela McGarvey (Room Supervisor)
Jennifer Morrison (Room Assistant)
Pre-School Room Assistant