



# Clocktower Pre-school Newsletter

January – February 2022

## What's new at Clocktower ...

Our new outdoor area named 'The Burrow' is now in action and used by all rooms at least twice a week.

We follow a two-week rota which has been shared with you to inform you what days your children will be out there (also attached to this email) It does get muddy, so please remember those welly boots and a spare change of clothes.

We have big plans for the new outdoor area including new resources and staff training. We will soon be inviting parents along for the official opening and a stay and play.

## Upcoming events at Clocktower ...

17<sup>th</sup> Jan - Math Week - A weeklong focus on all things mathematical.

24<sup>th</sup> Jan - RSPCB bird week - sign up and take part at home - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>

25<sup>th</sup> Jan - Burns night - a traditional Scottish celebration in honour of the Scottish poet, Robert Burns.

7<sup>th</sup> Feb - Children's mental health week - raising awareness and support for children's mental health. We finish the week with a 'dress to express' day on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. Find out more about it here; <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

7<sup>th</sup> Feb - Parents evening - please speak to your child's room staff for timings and how to book.

14<sup>th</sup> Feb - Valentine's Day.

14<sup>th</sup> Feb - Random acts of kindness week - celebrating the act of kindness. Join us too <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>

18<sup>th</sup> Feb - Stay and play - Join your child for some fun at Clocktower. 10.30-11.30 am and 2.00 - 3.00 pm.

21<sup>st</sup> Feb - Half term - Schools out for the week.

28<sup>th</sup> Feb - Sponsor week - Our annual sponsored fundraising event, more details soon!

## Donations please ...

As a registered charity, we really do appreciate the kindness of others and are thankful for all donations given. In the hallway you will find our donation tree, full of items that help our time at Clocktower more fun (usually messy play items!) When walking past, please pick a leaf from the tree and return it with the item provided.

The pets always love it when they are gifted with yummy treats. Buzz and Rex (the guinea pigs) love vegetables and herbs, Rocco and Coco (the budgies) love new toys and the odd chew. Items such as pet food, hay and sawdust are always appreciated.



## Staff updates ...

We have a few new faces at Clocktower, Sona, Chantelle, Kirsty and Joshua.

We sadly say goodbye to Melony at half term 😞 We are currently advertising for two qualified practitioners, please help share our vacancies.

Staffing is as follows:

**Executive manager** - Julie Mounfield. **Manager** - Karen Murphy.

**Poppy room** - Mel (deputy & room leader), Paige and Sona.

**Daisy room** - Katey (room leader), Liam and Melony.

**Daffodil room** - Claire (room leader), and Demi.

**Breakfast Club** - Liam, Claire, Paige, Sona and Jo.

**Afterschool Club** - Joshua, Demi, Karen and Katey.

**Additional staff** - Chantelle who assists with lunch, Kirsty who covers and Joshua who started in the after-school club but is sometimes seen in the preschool.

**SENDco (special education needs and disabilities coordinator)** - Mel.

**Safeguarding leads** - Karen, Mel and Julie.

**Parent trustee** - We have a new parent trustee currently being appointed, once completed his details will be shared.

**Paediatric first aiders** - Julie, Karen, Mel, Paige, Katey, Melony, Claire and Demi.

**Training update** - Karen is currently at university, studying for her degree in early years and education. Mel has signed up to become a children's mental health champion, she starts the course imminently. This is a welcomed role and will be a great support to our children and families. Demi will soon start training to become a PANCo (physical activity and nutrition coordinator) another welcomed addition to the Clocktower team. Staff will update parents and staff on their learning. Liam is also completing his apprenticeship in early years at Farnborough Tech. Karen and Julie are updating their safeguarding level 4, with Mel and room leaders to follow.

## Reminders for Clocktower ...

☺ Snack invoices for this term has gone out, this is a 7-week term so each child will be invoiced for £7. A copy of the snack menu is attached to this email. Please hand your money to a staff member.

☺ When providing lunch for your child, please check ingredients, we are a nut free setting and will not open any foods containing nuts, they will be returned home. Please also avoid food containing chocolate. We provide water and milk, if you wish for us to refill your child's water bottle with squash, please supply a named bottle to stay at the setting.

☺ Just a reminder that our morning session ends at 11.30am and the afternoon is 3.00pm, late fees will be issued at £10 for every 15 minutes late, without a valid reason.

☺ Please remember that the use of mobile phones is not allowed while on the premises of Clocktower.

## Parking ...

Please, please, please **do not** park in the staff car park (even if the gate is open) this is a huge safety hazard to our children who congregate outside the building ready to come in to Clocktower. You are not permitted to drive past The Burrow and park outside the building.

We recommend that you park safely at Napier Gardens, we can provide you with parking permits so you can park for free. (Also attached to this email)

Parking on the main road is illegally and too many cars parked at the end of Clocktower can become dangerous.

Parents of the before and after school club can park in the staff car park before 8.15 am and after 3.30pm.

## Facebook ...

If you haven't already done so, please check out our Facebook page to stay up to date with all things Clocktower. If you scroll back, you will see the photos of the building before the refurb.

<https://www.facebook.com/ClocktowerPreschoolandSchoolClub>.

Please note, for safeguarding reasons, you cannot befriend staff on social media.

"Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read."

- Marilyn Jager Adams

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## Did you know...

The aim of our Burrow is to promote a fun outdoor experience that encourages risk and challenge, freedom to explore and connect with nature. Its big, its loud, its messy and the possibilities are limitless.

Being outdoors promotes physical activity, improves mental health, strengthens immunity, develops independence, promotes social skills, teaches safety and gives children the opportunity to push their boundaries. There isn't a negative side to being outside. It's a fundamental need for our children and staff.

Clocktower has two sayings that we promote a lot, "there's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes" and "dress for mess". These two are even more prominent for The Burrow.

As The Burrow grows with resources, so will children's experiences and skills. The ultimate goal is to be forest school trained (find out more here <https://forestschoollassociation.org/what-is-forest-school/>) but in the mean time we can't wait to set up a world of adventures outside. From den building, tree climbing, balancing, spinning, relaxing in a hammock or tree swing, using real tools, enjoying outdoor craft, learning skills, investigating nature, playing games, having picnics, outdoor stories and singing, there really is an abundance of excitement to be had.

We can't wait to start and share this with you all.

There are more articles on forest school here.

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/forest-schools-impact-on-young-children-in-england-and-wales/>

<https://www.littleforestfolk.com/kit-list>

<https://fothcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/FoTHCP-forest-school-guide-for-parents.pdf>

