



Registered Charity No: 1128799

14<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Parents

Welcome, especially to all our new parents, the first couple of weeks have gone fast. The children have all settled in really well. Newsletters will be issued every half term just to keep you updated with any important dates and other information.



Over the summer we have recruited a few new members of staff which are great additions to our already excellent staff team. Confirmation of these new additions will be given to you all shortly via email once they have started with us. You may already know that we have also gone through a re-structure and the new appointments are as follows:

Debbie	Manager
Wendy and Mel	Pre-School Supervisors
Sandra and Lorraine	After-School and Breakfast Club Supervisors
Alex	Holiday Club Supervisor
Shirley	Breakfast Club Assistant as well as After School
George	After- School Assistant
Jessica	After- School Assistant



#### Message from Mel

Firstly I would like to send a warm welcome to all the Hollies children new and old. We are all excited to hear about your summer break and talking to you about the discoveries you've made during this time. While we understand some children will be bursting at the seams to tell us of all their adventures, we are also aware that others will find settling in challenging and difficult to form relationships and attachments.

To help with a smooth transition into pre-school we have introduced a program called chatter bags. We will supply individual bags for the children to personalise while at the Hollies, the bags will be sent home with your child each day, encouraging you to help your child find exciting objects that your child will recognise from home. This could be a favourite toy, a postcard from a holiday, a photograph of your family or an object that you found on a day out. By using an object that has a reference to a significant event or an item that is special to your child will help your child develop confidence to talk about their object as they will already have background knowledge; stimulating interest and developing concentration and communication. Please do not over fill your child's bag, whilst we all love to hear of their adventures, we are also aware that communication and language also requires listening and attention, this can be quite difficult for some younger children.

Research has suggested that by the age of two, children will use up to fifty words and understand between 200-500 words. We hope to expand your child's knowledge and understanding through the chatter bag program. The bags will be hung on your child's peg so they will be able to reach for them at any given time. They will be used either on a one to one basis or in a small group depending on the age of the child, and how the children would like to share their news. Your child's key person will communicate to you about the chatter bags through the daily diary, updating you with the exciting news your child has shared and how their communication skills and confidence grows. We will also suggest through the diary when to change the object in the chatter bag.

We are looking forward to seeing the children's identities and individuality shine through when we start using the chatter bags.



For those parents who haven't seen them we have 2 other types of bags which your child will bring home. The first is an animal sack which will have an animal for your child to look after for the week, this is great for them and they enjoy telling us all about it's adventures. The second is a number sack, which will contain a number game, jigsaw and storybook, for your child to share with you and your family. In both these sacks there is a note book for you to share with us what you and your child has done at home. We do rotate who brings the bag home each week, so you will not get one every week but the children enjoy it when it is their turn.



We have also introduced a new Rhyme book, where each week we put a new nursery rhyme in for you to share with your child. We also sing these rhymes at circle time - we hope you enjoy these books.



Colour of the week. Please refer to the Pre-Schools timetable of activities to see what the colour of the week will be and it would be great if you could encourage your child to make reference to it either by the colour of their socks, hair bobble etc.



A couple of years ago we introduced a star system, which we wanted to remind you about. You and your child can complete a star for something special they have done, just put their name on it and what they have done which you would like to share with their friends at the Hollies. We read them and talk to them at circle time. They are then displayed on our 'Star Board' on the door next to kitchen. I have attached a star to this newsletter but there are plenty in the little reception area if you need more.



As you are aware your child has a key person to monitor and meet your child's needs. We have a diary which we complete every day (not always their keyworker due to shifts). This communication provides you an insight into their day and acts as a prompt to be able to chat to them about their day. It is also a 2-way communication and we welcome feedback from you about what your child has done, have they been to visit someone or swimming - this give us something to chat to the children as well. So please could you have a look at this and complete if you would like to.



Just a polite reminder that Pre-School parents are not allowed to use the Lower Park School car park at any time and this includes if you are picking up or dropping off at Breakfast or After School club.



We would like to remind parents that we need to know if your child is off sick, please could you ring us on the first day that they are off. We also need to know of any accidents that have happened at home, a home incident form needs to be completed. So if your child has had a bump/accident please could you make a member of staff aware and they will ask you to complete a form. Also inform us if you have any holidays during term time.



We want to remind parents about lunch boxes, we have a healthy eating policy at The Hollies so we ask parent to keep this in mind. We understand that children need a "treat" in their lunchbox and just ask to make sure that there is a balance of healthy food available as well. Remember we do provide healthy snacks during the morning and afternoon so try not to overfill the boxes. Children do seem a bit daunted with too much choice sometimes, a sandwich, piece of fruit, yogurt and treat is enough. Think what they eat at home for lunch when you prepare their lunchbox. If you child does not like sandwiches or fancy a change pitta bread, wraps or crackers work well. If you have any concerns over your child's lunch please feel free to talk to a supervisor or your child's key worker. Also as a reminder we do have a no nut policy so please ensure that there are no nut products in your child's lunchbox.



All annual bills have been issued so just as a reminder monthly payments need to be paid by the 10<sup>th</sup> monthly and termly payments dates are listed on your account. Also please can you ensure that payments for dinners are paid within 7 days of receipt of your bill as we have to pay the council direct for all school dinners within that timescale as well.



Poynton In Business: Any votes for our Pre-School would be appreciated.

### Vote for Poynton Business!

Poynton Town Council is joining forces with Poynton In Business (PIB) in the quest to find the best businesses and employees in Poynton. The Poynton Achievement in Customer Excellence (PACE) Awards are now in their third year and are they are the only truly local business awards, where residents get to vote for their favourite businesses and staff members.

The awards categories cover *all* Poynton business from shops and restaurants to professionals and business services etc. so they are just as relevant to business users as they are to shoppers.

As an incentive to cast your vote, the Town Council is offering all voters the chance to win local shopping vouchers. There will also be a prize of £75 of vouchers for the exceptional person to be voted the Poynton Employee of the Year.

The closing date for nominations is **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015** and nomination forms are available from Poynton Civic Hall and from various businesses around the village. However, the easiest way to vote is via the Poynton In Business website, [www.poyntoninbusiness.co.uk](http://www.poyntoninbusiness.co.uk).



### Hockley Park

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The Town Council is planning to refurbish Hockley Park, and will be seeking substantial grant funding to finance this. To help raise awareness of this initiative, to raise some local funding, and to consult with park users on potential play equipment, the Town Council is pleased to announce a 'Teddy Bears Picnic' at Hockley Park. This will take place from **10.30am to 1pm on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. For more information please contact the Town Council's Youth Coordinator, Louise Thorman on 01625 872238, or e-mail her at [atyouth@poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:atyouth@poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk)



## Fundraising

We are looking to do some fundraising events over the next few months as primarily we need to replace the outside play surface of the pre-school which as you can imagine will be very expensive. We have a few ideas lined up i.e. 'Autumn Allsorts' which will be a large second hand sale. 'A morning at the legion' which will be a coffee morning and also a sales event. 'Staff 3 peaks challenge'. 'Christmas themed items for sale created by the children'. With any type of fundraising we need as much help as possible to make any event successful and also we welcome any ideas that you may have. We will be in touch with any firm dates for any events shortly and hope that you will be able to support us but please get in touch if you have any other fundraising ideas.

Sure Start Children's Centre:

Please find attached a membership form for you to complete and return to the children's centre in Poynton so you can keep up to date with all their events.



Dates for your diary:

St Georges Church Walk and Harvest Service  
Individual photographs  
Pantomime, Aladdin at Buxton Opera House

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November am from 9am  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December

As always if you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting Debbie, Wendy, Mel, Rachel or your child's key worker.

Many thanks,  
All the Hollies Staff