

**Summer Newsletter**

August 2020

Dear Little Owls Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all enjoying the summer holidays and the beautiful weather we are having.  Hopefully you are finding fun ways of keeping cool and with the storms forecasted you will have lots of fun splashing in puddles! We can’t thank you enough for your patience during this difficult time. As you can imagine we have had to do lots of rethinking, restructuring and re-everything! Staff and committee juggling all this as well our own families during the summer holidays has been somewhat of a challenge.

**Thank you!!!!**

We had a very different ending to our summer term and were sad that we could not all get together for our usual end of term picnic but pleased we could do it in some form. We would like to say a very big thank you to all our Little Owls, parents and carers and members of the committee for the wonderful gifts, cards and words of gratitude we received at the end of term, we in turn are truly thankful.  Especially, for the time, effort and no doubt patience to make our beautiful Moonbeam trees, we will all treasure our beautiful gift. We love helping your children develop and grow into the wonderful little people they are and always feel sad to say goodbye to our Moonbeams but wish them a very exciting step on their next journey at school.

**Staffing**

It is with great sadness that we need to tell you that Hayley is leaving Little Owls. She has decided to move back to Plymouth to be near her family. We know you will join us in thanking Hayley so much for all her hard work whilst being at Little Owls, especially the support she has given to so many children and their families. We would also like to congratulate her on achieving her Level 3 qualification!

We are so pleased that Charlotte will be re-joining the team in September. We know so many of you have enjoyed seeing her again at the Park Plays. Welcome back Charlotte-we have missed you!

We had interviewed and appointed a new Deputy Manager but due to personal reasons she decided this week to not take up the post. Therefore we will be re-advertising for this role so please spread the word! In the meantime Sobia will be named Deputy but Abby will be overseeing the Deputy role’s responsibilities until someone is appointed.

**Resources...**

Coronavirus has changed lots of our normal activities especially those we enjoy over the summer holidays.  This can be difficult for our Little Owls to understand.  Please look at the resources below which you may find helpful and provide support for you and your child during these uncertain times.

We all know how important storytelling is to children and [this](https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/why-is-storytelling-important-to-children/zvqcnrd) short article from the BBC helps to explain to parents and carers its importance. Parents may find it helpful to have some ideas for communication activities with your children. Parents can find out more about the REAL project (Raising early achievement in literacy)  [here](http://www.real-online.group.shef.ac.uk/index.html) and this may give you a framework of ideas to share. Booktrust share a number of activities to promote talking about stories with children and parents may enjoy making [Gruffalo finger puppets](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/childrens-laureate/julia-donaldson/gruffalo-finger-puppets.pdf?_cldee=Y2hyaXMuYmFydG9uQGNhbWJyaWRnZXNoaXJlLmdvdi51aw%3d%3d&recipientid=contact-0dcf52775955e911a963000d3ab5a84e-21b3cd9537de41eeb7210e1115ceac53&esid=9f5c0c05-87bb-ea11-a812-000d3ad87f60) and using them to retell the story with their children. Stories can be useful to explain difficult concepts to children and authors Eoin McLaughlin and Polly Dunbar have created the picture book “While we can’t hug” which explains social distancing. Find a video of the story on the [Booktrust](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/june/while-we-cant-hug-eoin-mclaughlin-on-writing-a-physical-distancing-picture-book/?utm_source=clickdimensions&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=jul_earlyyears_newsletter&utm_content=CTA4&_cldee=Y2hyaXMuYmFydG9uQGNhbWJyaWRnZXNoaXJlLmdvdi51aw%3d%3d&recipientid=contact-0dcf52775955e911a963000d3ab5a84e-21b3cd9537de41eeb7210e1115ceac53&esid=9f5c0c05-87bb-ea11-a812-000d3ad87f60" \t "_blank) website.

The National Literacy Trust have created a new resource called Time Together. This free booklet is available for families to [download](https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/At_home_booklet_for_parents_final_digital.pdf) and is translated into a variety of different languages. It supports families with simple activities to do at home and to encourage talking together. The BBC have also launched their [Tiny Happy People](https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people), as promoted this week by the Duchess of Cambridge, with ideas and tips to support children’s healthy brain development.

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Please don’t forget the useful information we have on Tapestry-there are lots of stories and songs by staff so this will be a good way to help your children get used to us! Also our website [www.haslingfieldlittleowls.org.uk/useful-documents/supporting-the-home-learning-environment](http://www.haslingfieldlittleowls.org.uk/useful-documents/supporting-the-home-learning-environment) has lots of information.

**New Parents**, we will be sending you the necessary paperwork very shortly so that we can set up a Tapestry account for you.  Once set up is done, you will be able to access the resources available.

**Moonbeams**

Many of our older children will be starting in Reception in September. The Early Years Service have provided transition advice in their documents on the [Coronavirus Provider Updates Page](https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/business-support/coronavirus-provider-updates). Supporting the transition at home will be vital and you find their  [5 tops tips](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/june/how-to-help-your-children-return-to-school-5-top-tips/?utm_source=clickdimensions&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=jul_families_newsletter&utm_content=CTA3&_cldee=YW5uLmFja2Vyc0BjYW1icmlkZ2VzaGlyZS5nb3YudWs%3d&recipientid=contact-828c490c4755e911a96e000d3ab5a0d7-8573d55ed8d94ef28b29e77db10b8c54&esid=d72bffe6-87bb-ea11-a812-000d3ad87f60) on helping your child return to school. PACEY has produced some fabulous resources called [“Starting school together”](https://www.pacey.org.uk/partnerships/starting-school-together/) which you may find helpful.

Also attached to this newsletter is the Pre-school Vaccinations parent letter.

If you have any problems opening any of the links please let Julie know.

**Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to all the Little Owls celebrating their birthdays during the summer holiday! Jess G & Clara (4), Aryan, Tommy, Edmund and Esme (3), Albert (2); we hope you enjoy an exciting celebration!

**Fundraising**

Hopefully you will have heard about the Pizza, Peroni and Prosecco event on 12th September at Wellhouse meadow, but in the meantime!...

We raise money from used printer ink cartridges, if you have any please pop them in an envelope and pass them on to either Helen (Jack and Harry’s mum) or Julie (contact Julie for the drop off addresses). Also shopping through Amazon Smile and selecting Haslingfield Little Owls as your chosen charity will raise funds for the Preschool.

**Returning to Little Owls Post Covid-19**

Attached to this newsletter is our policy about returning in September. It is a very important document so please can you read it carefully as it outlines a number of important procedures you will need to follow. Please ask us if you have any questions.

**Dates for your Diary**

**Autumn Term Begins:**Monday 7th September 2020 (you will receive a separate email about your child’s first day)

**Scarecrow Festival:**Friday 11th September to Sunday 13th September 2020, including our Pizza, Peroni and Prosecco event. See this link for more details: [www.haslingfieldscarecrowfestival.org](http://www.haslingfieldscarecrowfestival.org/)

**Half Term**: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2020

**End of Term:**Wednesday 16th December 2020

Please see: [www.haslingfieldlittleowls.org.uk/times-terms](https://www.haslingfieldlittleowls.org.uk/times-terms/) for term times for the rest of the year.

We hope you continue to enjoy the summer holidays!

Best wishes from

Abby, Caroline, Charlotte, Julie and Sobia

The Little Owls Team

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