



Leechpool Caterpillar
Nursery & After-School Club
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November 2021

Start of Term Newsletter

A very warm welcome to our new Caterpillar, Isaac, who joins us this half term. All of our Caterpillars have returned to the nursery in good spirits and have settled into our routines well. We are looking forward to a busy festive term!

Themes and Songs

Our themes, stories and songs this half term are:

Themes	Stories	Songs
People Who Help Us (2 weeks)	Gingerbread Man	The Manners Song
Shapes and Patterns (2 weeks)	3 Little Super Pigs	Tommy Thumb
Christmas (3 weeks)	Stickman	Christmas Songs

Guiles Reptiles Visit

We are delighted to be welcoming Guiles Reptiles into our nursery on the morning of Tuesday, 16th November. This will include an hour-long interactive session where our Caterpillars will be able to touch and learn about 6 different reptiles.

We are inviting other companies into our nursery throughout the year to do interactive sessions with our children. These will be on different days to ensure that every child gets the opportunity to enjoy one and include a yoga session, a music session and a forest school session.

If you own, work for or know a company that may like to come into our nursery to run a session with our children, please do let us know. This can be anything from ceramic painting, woodwork, cooking, team building, dancing, gymnastics or even sewing. We will share the details with all of our families, offering the company a fantastic advertising opportunity.

Clothing

The cold weather has arrived! Please ensure that you send your child into nursery with weather appropriate clothes such as warm coat, winter hat and jumpers. We will continue to enjoy our newly refurbished garden every day, despite the colder weather. Please also include a change of clothes, just in case your child gets wet or has an accident.

Nametags

Please ensure that you name EVERYTHING including all spare clothes, coats, hats, bags, water bottles etc. It can be very time consuming trying to identify what item belongs to which child.

Nappies

If your child is still in nappies or is in the process of toilet training, please can you provide nappies, wipes and nappy bags in their bags, as well as a change of clothes.

Christmas Fayre, Activities & Concert

This half term is jammed packed with festive plans and activities, including our Christmas Story Time Party and Concert. Further details will follow in the next couple of weeks, these are the dates and times for your diary:

Christmas Fayre: Friday, 26th November from 3pm – 5pm in the classrooms of Leechpool Primary. Our nursery stall will be selling eco-friendly reindeer food and our after-school club stall will have a chocolate toss game.

Christmas Concert: Friday, 10th December at 2pm in Leechpool Primary School Hall. Please note that we are restricted to only two grown-ups per child.

Christmas Story-Time Party: Tuesday, 14th December between 9:30am and 10:45am in Leechpool Primary School Hall. This is a combined party with the Reception children from Leechpool Primary and is for the children only. All children are invited.

Accessing School

Leechpool Primary School are still operating with a one-way system when accessing the school grounds to manage the crowds at drop off and collection times. Please can parents, grandparents and childminders continue to use the pedestrian foot path to access the school. When leaving the school, please walk through the car park and exit via the main car gate. Please note that bikes and scooters must not be used in the school grounds to prevent any accidents and to keep everyone safe.

Big Run!

Our next Big Run! is on Friday, 12th November. We will set off at 9am to do a lap of the big field. Its great fun, helps awaken our bodies for the day ahead and builds on our awareness of good health. We will go out regardless of what the weather is like so please make sure you dress your child suited for the weather that day.

Illnesses & Absentees

The winter months always bring plenty of germs. Whilst this is a normal part of the childhood years, we ask that you please don't send your child in if they are unwell. We appreciate that this may cause issues with working arrangements, and is frustrating for you, but sending your child in before they have had a chance to recover at home may inadvertently result in your child being unwell for longer. This also reduces the spread amongst the children and staff, and is essential to keep everyone safe.

If your child has any COVID symptoms, please ensure that you carry out a lateral flow test and let us know the results.

If your child vomits or has an upset stomach, please do not send them into nursery until 48-hours after their last episode. These measures are put in place to reduce the spread of illness among other children and the staff.

If your child will be absent, please let us know either by calling, emailing, or sending us a message on SeeSaw.

Tissue Requests

As the winter months inevitably bring snotty noses we ask if each child would kindly donate a box of tissues to the nursery.

Reports & Assessments

We will be sending a report with details of the next planned steps for your child's learning each term in their bags as well as on SeeSaw. Please read, comment, and return these to the nursery. If you wish to discuss your child in more detail, please call or email to make an appointment with your child's key person.

Lunches

If you would like your child to enjoy a hot lunch at nursery, you are able to order these directly from Chartwells. These meals cost £2.35 per meal, and Chartwells are able to cater for special dietary requirements (medical proof required). These are all managed by you from home (10 days in advance), and Chartwells inform us of who is having a hot meal, taking the stress out of lunchtimes for parents. It also offers a great opportunity to start preparing our Caterpillars for their free hot lunches when they go to big school!

If you would like to order, please follow this [link](#) to register, book and pay. Please put "Leechpool School" as the school name and "Caterpillars" as the class.

Hot meals are not compulsory and your child is welcome to continue to bring in a health packed nut-free lunch box. Please remember that we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL** so please don't send your child in with any nut based products including nut spreads, chocolate spreads or cereal bars. We have children in our nursery with nut allergies so it is imperritive that we follow this rule to ensure everyone is kept safe at all times.

Christmas Cards & Bundles

To fundraise this term we will be selling Christmas Cards which your child has designed, as well as a handmade Christmas bundle including ornaments and keepsakes made by your child. Further details to follow in the next few weeks, and all funds generated from these sales will be used to buy new resources for our nursery.

Updating Contact Details

Please can you ensure that you update Caterpillar Nursery of any changes of contact details including address details, emergency contact details and medical needs. This is especially important for children who are utilising their 2-year funding, 3 & 4-year funding and extended funding, as we need up to date information to be able to claim the funding each term. To update us, please send an email to catclub2001@hotmail.co.uk with the details and we will update your child's confidential file.

Funding

If your child has turned or is turning three between September and December, they will be entitled to 15-hours universal funding from January 2022. We will be sending out the application forms home with the children that qualify in the next few weeks, please complete this and return to us urgently. Further details will be sent in a separate email so please keep an eye out for this.

Parents of those children who receive the extended 30-hour funding, please remember to renew your eligibility code before the 31st December 2021. If you do not do this, you will not be able to claim the additional funded hours next term.

Parents WhatsApp Group

There is a WhatsApp group for parents of our Caterpillars. This is a friendly group and is handy for sharing reminders and connecting with parents, setting up park play dates and building a sense of comradery. If you would like to join it, please follow this [link](#).

Caterpillars Facebook Page

Did you know that we have a dedicated Caterpillar Club Facebook Page? Have you liked or followed us? You can find it at www.facebook.com/leechpoolcaterpillarclub. We often post photos of what we get up to at Caterpillars, so do pop along and check it out. Don't worry, we will continue to share private photos of what your child enjoying their time at Caterpillars on our SeeSaw Journals, so you won't miss out. We would love for you to support us via this page by sharing it with friends who are looking for a nursery in the future, or by "liking" our posts.