

Hillside Pre-school

Charity Number 1019979

Telephone Number 0117 9478371

3rd June 2024

Dear Hillside Parents and Carers

We are delighted to welcome a new member of the team to Hillside. Steph Hall joins our team and will be working on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Initially Steph will be getting to know us and the children and how we work; from September she will be taking on responsibility for a group of key children. Steph has lots of experience working in Early Years and we know she is going to be a great addition to our team. Please do say hello to her when you see her.

As you may be aware from posters at Pre-School, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 12th June 2024 at 6.30pm. The Trustees and staff would like to invite you to come along and help us make decisions about the coming year. The AGM is your opportunity to have your say, put your ideas forward and help to shape the future of Hillside Pre-School. At the meeting we will also be electing (and re-electing) some of our Trustees – an important part of being a registered charity.

We would also like to remind you of some of the things agreed at last year's AGM which will come into effect from September 2024 which the Trustees feel are necessary to ensure Hillside Pre-School can continue to grow and support your children. As a registered charity, we rely on the childcare funding provided by Bristol City Council and fees paid by parents for additional sessions as well as any fundraising we can do throughout the year.

- From September 2024, any new children joining our setting will be charged £17.00 per session for anything in addition to their funded hours. Families who are already with us, will continue to be charged £16.00 per session for their child or children (any siblings who have not yet joined, will be charged at the new rate).
- We have also made the difficult decision to charge a £10 per year fee to help cover the cost of the extra activities that we provide for the children throughout the year – currently, these have been funded by the charity but, as Trustees, we no longer feel that this is fully-sustainable. We are aware that most other pre-school and nursery settings charge extra fees to cover these additional costs and we now feel that we need to do the same in order to continue providing activities that are outside the Early Years curriculum and the funding provided by Bristol City Council (for example, Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts, Christmas crafts and gifts). We will ask all parents/carers to pay this every September as a one-off payment for the year (for those joining in January or April, this will be pro-rata).

In addition to funding the extra-curricular activities, our charity often needs to purchase additional snacks and fruit for the children so we do ask that whenever possible, your child brings a piece of fruit or a vegetable to their session that we can cut-up and share together at snack-time. It can be fresh or dried fruit, vegetables or even breadsticks. The children really enjoy trying new food in a social environment so any donations you can make are really appreciated.

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From September, Hillside Pre-School will aim to become 'cash-less' meaning that all fees and uniform orders will need to be paid by BACS.

If you have any questions, please speak to Liz or Anna in the first instance.

Thank you for your continuing support and we hope to see you at the AGM on 12th June.

Yours sincerely

Bev, Chris, Sally and Dave

Hillside Pre-School Charity Trustees.