



Sallywags Pre School
The Jubilee Suite, The Parish Hall, Halwill Junction,
Beaworthy, Devon, Ex21 5XR
Playleader: Lorraine Crocker
Tel: 07552238793
Email: Sallywagspreschool@outlook.com
Web: www.sallywagspreschoolhalwill.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1033643
Ofsted registered number: 106369

February 2025 Newsletter

Some really important updates coming this month – please take the time to read through carefully and please ask if you need any further information on anything below – thank you.

What's happening this half term...

We're busy bees as usual and this half term will see lots going on, including a visit from MOO MUSIC and we will be exploring our theme for this half term, which is Books, and of course our much-loved Easter Egg Hunt at the end of the term!

Fees

As per our annual fee review, the committee has made the decision to raise fees which will apply from April 1st. Our costs across the board continue to rise and, whilst funding provision has increased, we also need to up our fees and boost our fundraising. You will receive a letter about this separately with more details and if you have any questions or queries then please speak to Pennie. We are always open to staggered payment plans and can advise on funding provision you might be entitled to.

Current Fees - £5.10 per hour

From April 1st for currently enrolled children - £5.50 per hour

For new enrolments after April 1st - £5.50 for 3-4 year olds, £6.50 for 2 year olds.

Invoicing

We are also making changes to how Pennie sends invoices. We will now be using Tapestry to notify you of your invoice balance, not Egress. Please note that if you purely use funding and don't owe anything, we are still obligated to send you details of what funding we are claiming on your behalf, and this will still be sent to you via an 'invoice' but the balance will be £0 and no money will actually be requested.

Funding changes

A reminder that for those of you entitled to funded places – applications need to be made early to secure the funding – there are cut off dates that you need to meet, and we cannot claim funding if these dates have been missed, and you might then be charged. For those of you with younger children please also familiarise yourself with the changes to 2-year-old

funding which commences the term AFTER the second birthday, and also 9-month funding which could apply from the day of your child's second birthday if you apply in the term before their birthday (helpful if you have a younger child you would like to join in the future). Pennie can advise on all funding so please speak to her or assistance and information.

New enrolments

With the new funding available the dynamics in setting have changed and we are seeing much higher numbers of children at this time of year than we have before. As a result, we are very close to capacity, and we have made the decision to temporarily halt all new enrolments from now until the end of the academic year. Anyone who wishes to enrol their child will be added to a new waiting list. This will apply to all new enquiries from 25th February. This will also be communicated via letter.

We will be reviewing our Admissions policy over the next couple of weeks to determine exactly how that will work and this will be communicated as soon as possible.

Please note – this will not affect you if registration forms have already been received by Pennie.

If you are looking for a space in the next twelve months for younger siblings, or you know someone else who is, please make sure to let us know once we communicate our new Admissions policy and we can add you to the waiting list.

½ Termly Hours Requests

As a result of the above changes, we will now be asking for half termly hour requests earlier than we have done previously – these will also be confirmed earlier so that we can assess our waiting list and look at what places we can offer to those needing it. Please make sure to return forms promptly so we can accommodate as many requests as possible. A reminder that the forms are requests only – and we cannot guarantee all requests are filled just because they have been asked for. We would also like to remind you that for a change in hours we ideally need 4 weeks' notice – especially important if we are claiming funding for your place and to ensure that we know what space is available for those waiting.

We are recruiting!

You may have seen that we are actively recruiting to grow our staff base with a further two Early Years Practitioner positions available (1 part time, 1 bank staff), in order to help us open up more sessions for those that need it as well as spaces for those that want to enrol at Scallywags.

It would really help us if you would take a moment to share the adverts either by word of mouth or via social media so we can reach as many potential applicants as possible!

Parent Questionnaire

Thank-you to everyone who has completed the Parent Questionnaire so far. We have had 60% return rate so far so if you haven't done it yet, please do – it helps us to assess how we are doing and improve our service to you where we can. There is a QR code in setting or you can use this link - <https://forms.office.com/e/ArLD1Jt1c2>

Fundraising

Thank you for your support last term with our two biggest fundraisers of the year!

Our big breakfast raised just over £700, and Bingo brought in just over £650.

It was lovely to see lots of you there!

Easter Egg Hunt – Thursday 3rd April – 3.45pm

We've had a word with the Easter bunny and our Easter Egg Hunt will return this year on Thursday 3rd April at 3.45pm. As always it will be open to all local children up to Year 6.

We would be grateful for any donations towards the cake stall (with ingredients list included please) but we will of course be cooking up bacon baps and refreshments!

Sponsored Walk / Ploughman's Lunch – Date TBC

Keep your eyes peeled for more details about this event in the Summer term. A chance for our Scallywags to get involved in our fundraising and with a delicious lunch at the end of it!

We're ironing out the details, but we would love some extra volunteers on the day so if you'd like to get involved either leading the walkers or preparing lunches, please let us know!

Easyfundraising.co.uk

Don't forget - You can also support us every time you shop online with [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk). Simply set up an account – choose us as your cause and then visit hundreds of your favourite websites, via the easy fundraising app and we will get an extra cashback donation with no extra cost to you!

Lorna, Team & The Committee

chair.scallywags@outlook.com