



NEWSLETTER – mid-JULY 2018

Business Manager (sessions) -

Helen Bennett helen.bennett@croftpreschool.com;

from Sept., Penny Harland penny.harland@croftpreschool.com

Finance Officer (invoices) - lynn.reardon@croftpreschool.com

Business Officer (funding) - bev.swindell@croftpreschool.com

Telephone 01925 764565 **Email** admin@croftpreschool.com

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

As we all prepare for the end of the pre-school term / year, I believe now is a good time to introduce myself properly to those who are not familiar with me already, especially those who have children starting with us in September. My name is Penny Harland and I have been working at Croft Early Years for the past year, initially in a supporting role as Bank Staff, and more recently as an Early Years Practitioner. In this time, I have gained invaluable insights and experience of how the setting is organised and how it functions to date.

I feel very honoured and privileged to have been selected by our current manager Helen Bennett, our Parent Charity Trustees Becki Blakey, Helen Broster, Chantelle Hughes and Paul Sephton, and a panel of our Early Years Practitioners, to be the new Business Manager from September, as we start the new pre-school term.

My background / qualifications / experience, thus far, include a Doctorate in Neuroscience, and work as a Neuroscientist and Scientific Editor in the years preceding starting a family. I have always been passionate about children and have 3 of my own aged 9, 7 and 4. After having my second child, I chose to discontinue my full-time scientific work and registered as a childminder, initially to help friends with their childcare needs whilst being a full-time carer to my own children, but then found the experience so rewarding I decided to continue to respond to other parents' childcare requirements.

I have been an Ofsted registered childminder for over 6 years now and was rated as 'Outstanding' from the start. I have a Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce, up-to-date First Aid and Safeguarding training, and a Level 2 Food Safety qualification. With my own children thriving across their school curriculum and in their extra-curricular activities, I believe I am well -informed and -placed to help prepare our pre-school children strive to achieve the best of their abilities in all areas of their development, so that they are more than ready for school when the time comes.

Update

The past week has been a very busy one. It has seen our children and their Parents/Guardians/Carers participate in Croft Carnival. Thank you to all the children, staff and Parents/Guardians/Carers who have helped to decorate and fill the float and ensured that everyone had a very happy experience by all accounts.

Our pre-school leavers participated in graduation photos on Tuesday, and our children's Parents/Guardians/Carers engaged in parents' evening (for those that requested it) on Wednesday evening.

Thank you for sending your children in with suncream, sunhats and water bottles. It has helped tremendously with keeping your children safe and well in these hot conditions.

I would also like to thank all the Parents/Guardians/Carers and staff who have returned the questionnaires that I have had sent out recently, and all the positive feedback and suggestions I have received, thus far, on how we can further improve our services. I would be grateful if those who have not returned theirs yet do so at their earliest convenience, so that I may implement any relevant changes as soon as possible. Thank you.



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On a personal note, I have really enjoyed interacting with all your lovely children and helping them to learn and develop into happy, helpful, kind, thoughtful, respectful, considerate, smart and independent individuals. I would like to wish all our pre-school leavers the best of luck as they embark on new adventures and exciting times at their new schools.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Helen for all the time, energy, care and attention she has put into Croft Early Years over the years that she has been here. I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to take on such a fabulous setting, with amazing children and an immensely caring, supportive and passionate team of staff. I am truly grateful that Helen will still be around in September to help with the handover of management and ensure a smooth transition.

I look forward to building upon the relationships that I have already made with the staff and you, the Parents/Guardians/Carers, and your children who will be remaining next term, as well as welcoming new ones.

Happy holidays & enjoy your family time everyone!

Best wishes,

Penny

Diary dates

16/7/18 1-3pm	St Lewis' new reception class members to visit School
17/7/18 1.45 (for 2.00 start) - 2.30pm	Sports' Day
18/7/18 10.30-11.30am	Mindfulness in the Wilderness (Forest School)
18/7/18 5.30 – 6.30 pm	Leavers' Event
20/7/18	Last day of term
5/9/18	New term starts

Invoices

September invoices will be issued on the 24th July and will include any ad hoc days, hot dinners and snack up to the 13th July. These need to be paid by 31 August please.

Any ad hoc sessions from the 13th July to 20th July will need to be paid on the day including snack fee and hot dinners.

Also, if you are in receipt or applying for the 30 hours funding, this will need to be renewed and/or applied for, so please check timescales for this.