

Darnhall Primary School
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25th January 2022

HOMEHUB INFORMATION – PLEASE READ CHANGES FROM TUESDAY 19th APRIL 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

From after the Easter break we will be closing our existing HomeHub provision and we are delighted that Miss Alexandra Pagonis (Qualified Teacher) will be opening up a new exciting childcare provision for children at Darnhall called 'Footprints in the Forest'.

HomeHub was set up many years ago for a handful of parents/ carers to use. It has grown in popularity and now is the time for this provision to change to meet the demands of our school community. Miss Pagonis already runs a very successful provision in Warrington called 'Footprints in the Forest' and you can look at this online via this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/footprintsintheforest.fs/>

Footprints in the Forest – Forest School are part of the Out of School Alliance and work closely with other providers to provide the best childcare.

The after-school care sessions will focus on the forest school ethos, following the children's interests and will be planned to enhance their independence, self-control, confidence, self-esteem, and interpersonal skills. The children's safety, well-being, and happiness is at the heart of everything that they do.

Inside and outside - Whilst following the forest school ethos outdoors, it will also continue this ethos indoors, still following the children's interests. The care provided will be **free flow so that the children can chose to be indoors or outdoors**. Indoor activities will include a variety of games (both natural and manmade). The home from home approach means children can unwind and relax after a busy day of learning or be as active as they like if they prefer.



Support for children - all children will be allocated a key person in each session. This is the adult that will collect them and work closely with them throughout the session. Having a key person is aimed to make the child feel comfortable and supported.

Activities - Forest school is all about following the children's interests and enhancing them holistically. In addition to this, we will have a bank of activities that will be available to the children. Some of these include den building, cooking around a fire, bug hunting, story making (using natural items), role-play, using tools, mud painting, music and much more.

Booking, registration & pay – there will be an online booking system where the parents/ carers can book. You can book a contract (set days each week) or can book adhoc (occasional days) if there are spaces. They also offer long term adhoc (where parents who know their rota for the year and can book days in advance). Upon booking, parents/carers give consent to various questions about their child, including photo permission, who can collect their child, dietary requirements, allergies, and medical consent. Parents can pay via bank transfer or cash. **Please note school will no longer deal with any bookings or payments.**

Prices –There is a shorter session until 4.30pm at £4.50 and a longer session until 5.15pm at £7.95. These prices remain a lot lower than other providers in the area. The cost is very competitive because school is not charging premises hire plus we will be contributing towards resources. The breakfast club will remain at only £10 a term, saving families a lot in childcare costs.

Insurance - Footprints in the Forest is insured for all the activities above and this is updated yearly.

Data protection - Footprints in the Forest are registered with ICO and have the appropriate policies in place.

Location used - the KS2 hall and outdoor areas on the KS2 site (same collection point as HomeHub).

Risk assessments - Daily risk assessments will be completed of all areas used. Footprints in the Forest also has many risk assessments for all aspects of their care.

Signing children in and out - Children will be signed in and out on the iPad using our online system. The adult/ carer collecting must have given permission to collect on the booking system.

Clothing - Outdoor waterproof clothing to go over their clothes and wellington boots will be provided. If parents wish their child to have their own waterproof clothing, we recommend the outfits from Lidl, as they are strong and waterproof.



Food - Children will be given a healthy balanced snack whilst in our care (e.g. yogurts, fruit, biscuits, sausage rolls, cocktail sausages, cheese, crackers, and breadsticks). We will also occasionally provide a hot snack on the fire e.g. popcorn, marshmallows, hotdogs. Please note the snacks given are not sufficient to replace their evening meal. Parents give permission for this upon booking, and we are allergy vigilant. All children who have an allergy are served first and we have policies and procedures in place to support this. Natasha's Law training has been undertaken.

In the future there will be plans made for a holiday provision should the need be there.

Please note: Children who have additional needs – before booking you will need to contact Miss Pagonis as needs will need to be discussed and staff ratios adjusted before a place can be offered.

Miss Alexandra Pagonis can be contacted on 07873 811881 or via email footprintsintheforest.fs@gmail.com

If you want to speak to myself then you know I am always happy to talk through any questions or concerns.

Priority places will be given to existing HomeHub children.

Kind regards

Sarah Tomlinson
Headteacher

