

**KIDSZONE**

NEWSLETTER – January 2022

Welcome back and happy 2022 to everyone across the 3 settings, after what we hope was an enjoyable Christmas break. We have a few updates and reminders for you.

Dates for your diaries:

* **Inset Days**

***Inset day cover will run subject to sufficient demand.***

January 28th – Benhilton

February 11th – Westbourne, Abbotsbury

April 19th – Morden, Tweeddale

May 26th – Benhilton

May 27th – Benhilton

Other dates are still to be confirmed by the schools.

* **February 2022 Half Term**

February half term is Monday 14th – Friday 18th. Booking forms are available to collect now, on request, or on the club website **www.kidszoneoosc.co.uk**

* **Easter 2022 Holidays**

Monday 4th – Thursday 14th April.

* **May/June 2022 Half Term**

Monday 30th May – Wednesday 1st June.

* **Summer 2022 Closure**

And as we know that many of you have to get in quick when booking your annual leave, the dates that we will be closed for our staff holidays are w/c 8/08/22 and w/c 15/08/22.

**Holiday Club**

Unbelievably February half term is almost upon us. This holiday club we are at Malmesbury Primary School as usual. The cut off for early bookings is Monday 31st January. Booking forms are available at each club or we can email one to you.

**Fundraising**

Thank you for everyone that took part in the Christmas raffle, games & teddy tombola. We raised £68 which went towards their extra Christmas activities. We will be arranging another similar fundraising event for Easter time, so please keep this in mind.

Any items you can bring in for this will be gratefully received.

***Easy Fundraising***

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for KidsZone OOSC with Easyfundraising?

Help us get 2022 off to a great start by signing up to support us for FREE on #easyfundraising. You can raise donations whenever you shop online with over 6,000 retailers including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, ASOS, M&S and more.

Plus, we will get a bonus £5 donation when you do! Sign up today - this will make a BIG difference to us this year: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=RGLPNE&char=254393&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox>

We joined the scheme in early 2021 and so far we have raised £140!!

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping, or add the app so that you get a reminder when you go onto a participating retailer.

After you’ve checked out, the retailer will make a donation to KidsZone OOSC at no extra cost to you whatsoever! There are no catches or hidden charges and your donations will enable us to build on and replace our resources and equipment. Thank you for your support.

**Staff Changes**

Over the past couple of months, we have had a few changes to the staff team across the 3 sites. Both Noah and Danielle left at the end of 2021 after being long-term valued team members, to pursue different careers. We have welcomed Chloe into the team as the new manager of our 8th Morden setting and she is doing great! Kadisha and Louise have now returned following their maternity leave. We have also been fortunate to welcome back both Mercy and Tiffany (who will rejoin us in February).

And after stepping in as relief manager for the past 2 years, on Friday 11th February Jody will also be leaving us to start a new vocation.

Thank you to all other team members for the consistent care they are providing and adapting to all changes so seamlessly.

**Tuck Shop**

Following the great success of the tuck shop that the children previously ran, we have had requests from them to now reinstate this business enterprise. Selling reasonably priced snacks, drinks, sweets and treats as the children leave to go home. In the past, the children have enjoyed spending their money on new club equipment, a games console for each club and even a takeaway night for tea. We are looking at organising this to potentially start up again after the February half term. The children will be holding a meeting to discuss ideas of special things they might want to raise money for. If you have any suggestions too, please let us know! Thank you, in advance, for supporting their venture!

**Club Contact Numbers.**

**MAIN OFFICE NUMBER:** 07817 241463 for admin and finance office@kidszoneoosc.co.uk

**Please note** that emails and messages are answered during office hours (8am-6pm). Please be patient for a reply if you message outside of these hours.

Each club has their own contact number and email address which are accessed during club opening hours. These are for on the day and non-urgent changes.

Here are the reminders of numbers.

**BENHILTON**

**JODY/TIFFANY**

**07517 585582**

**benhilton@kidszoneoosc.co.uk**

**MALMESBURY**

**NIKKI**

**07519 649926**

**malmesbury@kidszoneoosc.co.uk**

**8th MORDEN**

**CHLOE**

**07519 626242**

**greenlane@kidszoneoosc.co.uk**

**Supplementing our Resources**

As our toys and equipment get pretty heavy use, some are looking a little tired, have parts missing or have come to the end of their life. Now that new toys have joined the party since Christmas are there some at home which are now sitting collecting dust? We would be grateful to receive any to add to our resources and give them a new lease of life.

**Here are just a few reminders for everybody:**

* **Fees**

Fees are due for all days that your child is registered to attend, including absences.

Fees paid late will be charged at the Ad Hoc rate of £17.00 per session. Please note that fees need to be up to date to continue attending. If you experience difficulty in paying your fees, please contact Jacky to discuss the situation.

* **Notification of Absences and Lateness**

Thank you to all of you who let us know when your children are not coming to club.

Unfortunately, despite reminders, there are a number of parents who are still not informing us if their child is absent. Staff end up chasing round the school trying to find children who are not coming to club and sometimes we have sent 3 staff to pick up 18 children and they return with as few as 7!

We sometimes have to juggle staff for the pickups and knowing in advance eases the organisation of the school-run rota, especially if a staff member is off sick. And if not needed on the school run, staff can remain at club preparing for the activities.

It also helps with planning the tea and not wasting food.

So, please, if you know your child is not coming to club can you call or text as soon as possible but by 7:30am (EB) and 2:45pm (ASC) at the latest. (It is also in the contract that you will inform us)

Reminder that there is a late charge for children not collected by 6pm. This is **£20.00** for the first 30 minutes and **£10.00** for each additional 30 minutes or part thereof to cover the costs of the two staff who are legally required to stay. If you are running late please can you notify us as soon as possible as we need to arrange to stay on the premises after 6.15pm

* **Covid Cases**

We have been fortunate to have had very few cases of Covid within the clubs. Although restrictions have been reduced, we are still required to report any cases. Unfortunately, we have become aware of a small number of children who have had a positive PCR but we were not informed about it until after they returned to club.

It is vital that we are informed immediately if your child has tested positive, as per the Covid Agreement. That way we can implement any measures to reduce the spread and ask close contacts to take LFTs. We thank you for your co-operation with this.

* **Mobile Phone Policy**

To comply with our Mobile Phone Policy and Ofsted requirements please can you familiarise yourselves with the following policy statement and ensure that it is adhered to.

“Mobile phones should not be used in the presence of children in our care, for sending personal texts, making personal calls, taking photos/videos, listening to music, playing games or accessing the internet.

If you need to take or make calls during your visit, please do so out of the presence of children.”

We are also aware that some children carry mobile phones for safety reasons. In accordance with the above policy, please can you explain to your child that they are not permitted to use them whilst at club and are required to hand them in to staff for safe keeping.

Thank you for your co-operation in keeping the children safe.

* **Identification of Property**

Please can we ask that all property is named, including shoes, as we have had a number of times when it’s been a problem reuniting clothing to the right child. Last week we had two boys with the same shoes of the same size!

* **School Activity Clubs**

Providing we have staff available, we will offer the service of making a second trip to collect children who wish to take part in after school activities (e.g. football, cooking, photo club, etc).

If your child would like to take part in one of these activities, please could you let us know by completing a request slip before booking them in, to make sure we are able to return to pick them up. There is a charge of £1.50 per child per club attended for this service and a maximum of 8 children per school per day.

* **Parent Parking**

We are fortunate to have limited off street parking at 8th Morden and Stayton Road which parents are welcome to use.

Please remember to be courteous to other parents and staff by not blocking the entrance to the drive or parking in such a way as to prevent other parents from pulling up on the drive, even if you are in a rush and will only be a couple of minutes.

On Stayton Road, if you need to park on the road please be aware of our neighbours so as not to block their drives, and leave plenty of room for the S3 bus to pass through. We have one neighbour who has found cause to complain on a more than one occasion and we want to maintain harmony in the community.

Sutton Vineyard have kindly permitted us to use the car park of their offices for brief stops, when they do not have events on. We are asked to park in the area near to the building, beyond the dividing shrubbery, so as not to block access for emergency services. Finally, if you park on the pavement, you run a high risk of a getting a ticket – Stayton Road is patrolled regularly, and a number of parents have incurred a fine!

**Staff Vacancies**

Now our number are increasing again after lockdown, we are recruiting for additional Playworkers and Walking Bus Escorts for Early Birds at Benhilton KidsZone, and After School Club at all three clubs, as well as Bank Staff.

Hours are between 5 and 16 hours a week, generally between 7:30am – 9am and 2:45pm-6.15pm. Contracts are term-time only, however, as we also operate holiday clubs during the school holidays and on inset days hours, additional hours are available and staff can submit their availability to work during these times.

We also welcome applications from students (Yr 10 and above) to work after school/college and in the school holidays.

If you know of anyone who may be interested, please put them in contact with me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Here’s to a happy and healthy 2022.

Jacky and the Staff team.