

**Little Lambs Childminding.**

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**January to June 2018.**

This is Little Lambs first newsletter for 2018, which can be viewed on the Little Lambs website ([www.littlelambs.org.uk](http://www.littlelambs.org.uk)). Baby’s Days systems continues to be fully utilised and we will be providing further information through these bespoke communication systems and will also be inclusive of direct emails. We will endeavour to release a newsletter every quarter.

2017 was a very challenging year within the world and environment of Little Lambs. Changes was seen to be made regarding the development of the Environment Sustainability policy which included educating the children regarding environmental and sustainability impacts and how important it is to segregate and use waste in a pro-active manor and this has led to arrangements for composting waste and now Little Lambs has their very own composting area that now generates green waste to usable planting materials.

In addition, discussions with the children regarding the use of the energy resource of electricity for example, kitchen appliances, tools and equipment and lighting with the importance of switching electricity supplies off when we are not using them. The children found this subject area very interesting and soon understood the key elements of saving power whenever we can.

2017 had also seen two changes in staffing resource. Firstly Chrissy had decided to leave the Little Lambs setting in September and the employment of Rebecca. Rebecca settled in well during September however and during the end of this month, Rebecca was given an opportunity to work within the schooling community so unfortunately, this led to Rebecca leaving the setting.

I had decided to operate Little Lambs on my own which had led to upsetting and difficult decisions being made during the coming weeks. A number of children had to be released which again, wasn’t easy and was something that I really didn’t want to do. However, my primary concern was keeping childcare within the boundaries of the Ofsted requirements and this was the sole reason for the child reduction. It was a very challenging year to say the least.

The remaining children had not been effected by the decisions that had been made and the continuation of childcare was paramount during this period. The children continued to learn and enjoy themselves throughout the transition.

A decision had also been made regarding the meal provision. A review assessment had been completed within Little Lambs regarding the feasibility of continuing to provide meals within the childcare fees and the results showed that in the present climate that this was not financially viable. Again a decision had to be made to either increase the childcare fees or place a fee of £1 per meal. I decided to charge the fee for meals as i’m conscious that the raising of childcare fees would have had a greater impact for the parents / guardians.

As from September 2018, Little Lambs will no longer provide oven cook meals that have been supplied for children by the parents / guardians. I would appreciate if parents / guardians who supply meals for their children please supply only microwavable meals or sandwiches. This is due to food hygiene and health risks of transported food that require either re-heating or that is in its raw state.

Childcare fees have not increased since the start-up and commencement of Little Lambs (June’ 2015). I endeavour to try and keep childcare fees to a minimum for you all.

All in all. During 2017, the children had a fabulous time within the Little Lambs setting. Regular outings to parks, play / activity centres and activities within the setting had been thoroughly enjoyedby the children. Overall, the children progressed really well in all areas of the learning environment and continue to do so.

Thanks for a great winter, we had a fabulous time, and managed to do so many things. There are lots of pictures on the Little Lambs website and their Facebook page of what we got up to and with the new faces of who now attends. We are constantly being recommended by parents. A huge thank you for that, every little bit helps to sustain Little Lambs.

**Thanks and Welcomes.**

Little Lambs welcomed a number of new start children and had settled in very well and within a short time, parents stated that Little Lambs was their second home.

Little Lambs has continued to purchase the annual pass for Wigfield Farm which the children thoroughly enjoy visiting. This is a place where the children are encouraged to feed and pet the farm animals. Real life experiences are in abundance.

During January 2018, I have once again made the decision to employ a before and after school Childminding Assistant. A job role vacancy advert had been released and a number of candidates applied for the advertised position and who had been interviewed which led to a successful job role offer of employment being given to the successful candidate. Let’s meet Faye who not only met the job role requirements but has a wealth of childcare experience and knowledge that can only enhance the Little Lambs experience for all the children within the setting.

We would also like to say thanks for bearing with us over the last couple of months; it’s been a little hectic with the settling in of the new children, new routines. We are nowvery busy getting in to our 2018 spring and summer rhythm. For the new children,we have been trying to ease them in to it more gently, staying at home a little more until we all get used to everything, and so that the children can get to know us and their new friends too.

**Projects and Activities.**

Little Lambs are currently focusing on “How Do Things Grow” and with this in mind we are nurturing caterpillars to Butterflies in a specially designed nursery. The children are very excited to see them grow through various stages.All butterflies have "complete metamorphosis." To grow into an adult they go through 4 stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult.In addition and over the forthcoming weeks the children are going to be involved with establishing an Ant hill and will see how Ants move around and burrowing tunnels. During June July, the children will be establishing a Herb garden too. As you can see that there’s lots of creative and exciting activities happening within the Little Lambs environment that will captivate the children and enhance their learning experiences.

**New children.**

 We would like to welcome our new children.

We continue to pick-up / drop-off at Wath C of E. This is our existing pick-up and drop off school.

We strive to provide continuity of care, which is as important to us as it is to the children. We will review further pick-ups at the time of receiving a request.

We have been able to continue to provide this high level of care and commitment due to the nature of the Little Lambs setting. Therefore, if you have a move in mind do come and discuss it with us as we try our best to accommodate all the logistics involved to achieve the best outcome for everybody, however complicated that it may seem.

We have a number of children toilet training at the moment and so any old or spare pants would be much appreciated.

We are also running low on nappy supplies so if your child is training or in nappies please ensure you send them with a pack of nappies and wipes whenever the need arises.

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).**

The General Data Protection Regulation will apply in the UK from 25 May 2018 and will replace the current Data Protection Act 1998. The GDPR will have “direct effect” meaning that it will apply without the need for a specific new Act of ParliamentIn other words, European data protection law will now apply worldwide, and businesses have until 25 May 2018 to prepare.

GDPR will give individuals greater control over their own personal data.

Little Lambs already have a Confidentiality Policy in place and in addition, Little Lambs has developed a further two polices and these are as follows:

* LL-PR-057 Confidentiality and Privacy Policy.
* LL-PR-058 Retention Policy.

Parents and guardians who have their children enrolled within the Little Lambs setting will be receiving a copy of the new policies in the forthcoming weeks, including the Sharing of Information Permission form that will require your signature.

GDPR will introduce some significant changes in what is needed and these are the six principles:

You must have a lawful reason for collecting personal data and must do it in a fair and transparent way.

* You must have a lawful reason for collecting personal data and must do it in a fair and transparent way.
* You must only use the data for the reason it is initially obtained.
* You must not collect any more data than is necessary.
* It has to be accurate and there must be mechanisms in place to keep it up to date.
* You cannot keep it any longer than needed.
* You must protect the personal data.
* These privacy principles are supported by a further principle – accountability.

I have now written the Little Lambs Confidentiality and Privacy Policy, Retention Policy and Privacy Notice.

I will soon be distributing the new GDPR Confidentiality and Privacy Policy and Privacy Notice to you all. Permissions register will need to be signed by you all.

If you require any further information then please don’t hesitate to contact me.

**Little Lambs Website (littlelambs.org.uk).**

The Little Lambs website has now reached the first anniversary and goes from strength to strength which has proved to be a huge success for the setting and has now received over 6,000 views. All parents and guardians can access the website at anytime and Little Lambs have received large amount of childcare enquiries (in excess of 1,500) that have been received directly from the website. There is an abundance of fabulous information for all parents and guardians to view. I would also like to ask if you could please write a review on the Accolade and Review section. This will be greatly appreciated.

**Parents Noticeboard.**

We’ve had several parents asking for recommendations for lots of things and so have decided to put up a parents notice board on the Little Lambs website (littlelambs.org.uk). This is a free space for you to let others know about useful contacts, i.e. for your holiday homes, your businesses or just handy tips. It’s completely free, you need to email us a blurb and we will put it up on the website for you and our other parents to see. It is just a useful tool, meant to help each other, nothing more, but as we seem to have so many parents with different businesses/ skills it should prove useful.

**Baby’s Days.**

We are continually utilising and updating the website, and feedback suggests that many of you do prefer the website as its more user friendly, whichever suits you is fine, it’s all a work in progress. The Little Lambs website (www.littlelambs.org.uk) went live in quarter two last year and the web base has gone from strength to strengthand there has been over 5,000 hits that have been recorded. I would really appreciate it if the parents / guardians could leave a review on the website. Little Lambs Facebook page still exists and messenger is still live.

Please take the time to have a look through the Baby’s Days system – especially those with younger children – once you find your way around it’s not so foreboding and it will be greatly appreciated for the parents and carers to periodically to enter additional information.

**Spare or Unwanted Equipment.**

If you have any toys, equipment you no longer require then could I please request that you consider Little Lambs and to be passed our way, they are used daily and enjoyed by so many. If you have any spares, a baby monitor, car seatsthen do think of us. It will be well used and greatly appreciated.In addition.Could you please send a spare change of clothing for your children As you all know that the children actively take part in games and activities that involve water play and then on outings the children can become a little muddy.

**Half Term Holidays.**

Please let us know your plans for half term holidays so we can start to put together a register for attendance and a plan of activities for those children in attendance and let’s pray for some sun as well!

**Child Reviews.**

It’s getting to that time again when I will be completing the child reviews with the parents and guardians. I will be contacting you shortly to arrange for the review to take place.

**Late Pick-Ups.**

Late pick–ups are never a problem. There is nothing worse than stressing about being late, send me a text/call if you can and we will continue to look after the children until you reach us. But we’re fully aware that the commute home can be tricky with delayed trains and traffic jams.

**Our Details.**

Please ensure your emergency contacts and the school where we collect your children have all our details in case we need to contact them or likewise, and they know who we are.

Finally. Could I please ask if you all could post a review on the Little Lambs Website. I would greatly appreciate all of your opinions.

Do feel free to contact me if you have any questions:

Samantha Lamb: **07810190505**

Many thanks,

Samantha Lamb.

Little Lambs Childminding.