

Newsletter December 2025



To all our Little Doves families,
friends and staff,
Thank you for all your support during
2025. I give thanks for our Outstanding
Ofsted report. I pray that we are able
to continue to serve the community
with our lovely pre-school.
Have a good Christmas and see you
all in the New Year, Pam xx
Thank you to everyone who
came to the AGM.

Absence - if your child is off for any
reason, please message Pam so she can
record it. It is an ECC requirement.

♥ Goodbye ♥

We are very sad to be saying a heart felt
goodbye to Holly. She has been a trustee
since the conception of Little Doves and
a staff member for many years. She will
keep in touch and return in the future
when she can. Thank you so much Holly
for all your hard work and your love to us
all at Little Doves. God Bless xxx

Dates for your diary 2026

Spring term starts: **Tuesday 6th January**

Half term: **Mon 16th – Fri 20th February**

Spring term finishes: **Friday 27th March**

Wonky Wednesdays (2nd Wed)

We open at **9am** and finish at **12 noon**.

Next term: **14th Jan, 11th Feb, 11th March**

**Future date – possible pre-school closure
for local elections – Thursday 7th May**

**Please remember to support us by
using easyfundraising
for all your online shopping.**

Click [here](#) to go to
the **easyfundraising website.**



Reception admissions for September 2026

Applications for primary school
(Reception) admission opens on **Mon 10
Nov 2025**, for parents of children to apply
for a reception school place for Sept
2026. **The statutory national closing date
for applications is 15 January 2026.**

Applications can be made online via
www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

All application information is available on
the website above.

We close at 3pm so you need to have picked up your child before that!

HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES PLEASE



Our website has ideas on [healthy lunches](#) with more [healthy eating info](#) on [The Eatwell Guide](#)



Please think about:

- salt content e.g. small portion of crisps
 - sugar content e.g. 1 cupcake or 1 biscuit
- Please cut blueberries in half, slice cucumber, tomatoes & grapes lengthways & in quarters to prevent choking!!**

[See Choking hazards](#)

More info on our [healthy snack](#)

**PLEASE REMEMBER
TO LABEL ALL YOUR CHILD'S
BELONGINGS; COATS, BAGS, DRINK
BOTTLES, LUNCHES, WELLIES etc**

If your child is sick or has diarrhoea, they need to be 48 hours clear from the last episode before returning to Little Doves.

Little Doves T-shirts/Polo shirts available to order. See Pam.

T-shirt £8, Polo shirt £11

Sweatshirt £11.50,

Iron on badges £2, 3 for £5.

Zip up hoodies in navy and purple, £18.50 Size 3-4/5-6

Slight Healthy Snack Increase

As you are all aware, food prices have rocketed and so reluctantly we have had to increase our Healthy Snack charge by 10p to £1.35. We have also had to introduce an afternoon healthy snack charge of £0.25 for children who stay beyond 2pm.

Very important

You MUST let us know if anyone different is picking up your child. Please fill in the correct collection form and tell whoever is on the door who will put it in the Sign-in register. Also remember to tell the person collecting the 'password'

Remember to renew your codes for January 2026 to continue to receive 30 hour and working two year old funding

Children born between 1st Sept and 31st Dec are funded in Jan 26.

30 hour Extended Funding - parents please apply **NOW** if you want to claim from **Jan 2026**

Funding for eligible working parents of 2 year olds

This [link](#) gives details on what entitlements parents may be able to receive.

Parents can apply for the entitlements via the following [link](#)



Little Doves [Website](#) and useful links

- [Term dates](#)
- [Relevant policies and procedures](#)
- [What to do if you are concerned about a child](#)
- [Online safety information](#)

[Ofsted](#)

- To report a **concern**, 0300 123 4666
- For **enquiries**, 0300 123 1231

Key person visits

If you would like to see your key person or your child's folder, please let Pam know and we can arrange an appointment.

New government website

Please explore [Best Start in Life](#) to find trusted resources and information.

STRICT NO NUT POLICY in packed lunches for children & staff. NO peanut butter or nut related spreads such as Nutella or almond pastes. We have several children with SEVERE ALLERGIES. New policies [04 Health](#)



Bad Weather

In the event of bad weather Pam will text or email you as early as possible in the morning if the pre-school is closed. The road leading to the hall and car park has to be safe. Please make sure we have up to date contact details.



With love & prayers, Pam & the Little Doves team

