

Thank you all for the beautiful Christmas gifts and cards – they were very much appreciated and we all felt very special 😊



## Newsletter January 2026

Little Doves phone no  
07756 029105

  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Little Doves Pre-school Online Quiz**  
(using Zoom breakout rooms for each team)  
hosted by  
Rotary Club of Brentwood  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Virtual doors open 7pm  
Quiz starts at 8pm  
Suggested donation  
£6 per person  
Teams of 8 - please ask friends and family and support this much needed fundraising

who? what? when?

Welcome back to Little Doves and a Happy New Year to you all.

We've welcomed several new children this term and although it always takes a little while to get used to the pre-school routine, everyone is now settling in nicely.

Please consider getting a team together and supporting our online quiz. This event makes a huge difference to our finances and as a result the children benefit enormously 😊

Please also consider sponsoring those taking part in our two other upcoming fundraising events:

- Brentwood Half Marathon where Pam's son and son-in-law will be running for Little Doves
- Sponsored Easter Egg Hunt and Easter service at St Paul's - date to be confirmed.

Sponsor forms will be going next month.

### Valentine's Day/Lent prayer hearts

These will be going out soon. Please take time to fill these in with your child – the children love talking about what 'they' have written and their pictures.

#### Bad Weather

##### Please watch out for weather reports

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.

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

### Staff Changes

We said a sad farewell to Sam Field earlier this month as she left us to start working in a school. We wish you all the very best, with love and prayers.

We are very excited to announce that Justine will be joining us again as a full-time member of staff from the end of January. So lovely to have you back 😊

### Dates for your diary 2026

Half term: **Mon 16<sup>th</sup> – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Spring term finishes: **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**Wonky Wednesdays** (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed)

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

Next term: **11<sup>th</sup> Feb, 11<sup>th</sup> March**

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

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

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



### T-shirts/Polo shirts/Sweatshirts

Pam will be doing an order soon. It takes a while for an order to come through so please think what you might need for spring. There is some stock still available.

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

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

We regularly remind the children,  
'Kind hands, Kind feet, Kind words'. You may like to use these phrases too

### 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.

### Suitable footwear

Please bring your child into pre-school WEARING 'pre-school' shoes - trainers or plimsols. Please, no shoes with hard soles as they can hurt other children and staff if accidentally kicked or stood on.

Please remember to file your child's nails.



If anyone is away, please let Pam know.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sept and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec are funded in Jan 26.

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

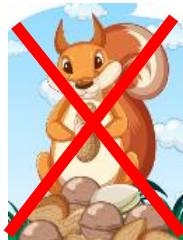
**Funding for eligible working parents of 2 year olds**

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

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



**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](#)**



### 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.

### School Admission

Hopefully everyone has completed their school admissions online form for September 2026 starts. The deadline has now passed.



**Our meerkats are out on their travels, please look out for them and take one on your travels.**

Images designed by Freepik

**With love & prayers, Pam & the Little Doves team**