**A BIG WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. It has been lovely to meet you all at our stay and play sessions before the summer and recently on home visits.**

**STAFFING**

**Overseeing Manager for both settings**:

Zoe Marler-Hausen (SENCo and Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer)

**Deputy**: Theresa Quartermaine (Health and Safety Officer and Physical Activity Lead) – Red Group

**Administrator:** Carmel Gardner (works remotely)

**Practitioners:**

Jade Cavill (ECaT Lead) - Yellow Group

Gill McCarthy - Blue Group

Jodie Stray – Green Group

Jasmine Knight – Purple Group (mental health and wellbeing officer)

Ella Hillis – Orange Group

Duka Lebbern – SEN 1:1 practitioner

Jess Paul – SEN 1:1 practitioner

Rachael Watt – Lunch Club Support

**WHAT TO BRING TO PRE-SCHOOL**

Please can you ensure **ALL ITEMS** your child brings into pre-school are clearly labelled with their name.

Each child should come with a named bag, a full change of clothes, and a coat. Named sun cream and sunhat, and wellies/waterproofs if wet. If your child wears nappies, please can you provide spare nappies, wipes and nappy bags to enable us to change them.

**WORKING FAMILIES FUNDING ELIGIBILITY:**

Please can we remind those families who are accessing 15/30hrs funding for working families that they need to re-check their eligibility every 3 months. If this is not completed you will be charged for the sessions.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

**FACEBOOK Page **

We have a Ladybirds Porchester page for you to be involved with, please find us and join in to keep up to date with what’s going on. You can also visit our website [www.ladybirdsrus.co.uk](http://www.ladybirdsrus.co.uk)

**Tapestry:** We use the online journal Tapestry to record your child’s learning and development at pre-school. By now you should’ve all received an activation email to log in and be able to access your child’s page.

**Accident forms:** We will be uploading accident forms to your tapestry account and we ask that you comment on them to acknowledge you have seen them. Any head bump accidents, we will call you at the time so you are aware**. Head bumps:** As part of policies we will **call you for all head bumps** (smaller taps and harder ones) and your child will have a wrist band to alert you to this.

**SEPTEMBER 2026 School Starters**

Children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 are able to start school in the school year beginning September 2025. Admissions online have opened and close on 15 January 2026 at 23:59. [www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/find-school/apply-school](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/find-school/apply-school)

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

*Celebration Events for the next year where you might want to come into pre-school and join in:*

**Monday 20th Oct:** Wear bright colours for **Diwali**

**Half Term:** 27th Oct – 31st Oct **Pre-school closed**

**Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 13th November: Nursery Rhyme week with our Grandparents**! Grandparents can come into pre-school for the session with their grandchild (more details to come)

**Christmas Holidays**: 22nd Dec to 2nd January Pre-school **Closed**

**Thursday 5th March: World Book Day -** dress up day

**Wed 11th and Fri 13th March Mother’s Day:**

Mums can come into pre-school for these days and join in activities with their children

**Thurs 21st May World Day of Culture Diversity**: Come into pre-school and join in a range of activities (more details to follow) maybe you can read a story in your home language to the children?

**Wed 17th and Fri 19th June Father’s Day:**

Dads can come into pre-school for these days and join in activities with their children

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:** 21st Dec – 5th Jan

For our full academic term dates please see our website [Ladybirds Preschool Southampton - Term Dates](https://www.ladybirdsrus.co.uk/term-dates/)