



Wow! We are so excited to be back in school and spending our days with the kids again! Although some things look different, we would like to thank each of you for your flexibility and help with the transition. We feel that things have gone smoother than we could have expected!

Thank you to all our families for filling out the health screening form each day. That little bit of extra time that you take to fill that out ahead of time saves us much time at drop off and throughout the day! I also appreciate the diligence our families have already shown with watching for symptoms and keeping their kids home as a precaution. We know that it is very typical for lots of runny noses and colds at the beginning of the year and into winter, but also appreciate the special circumstances going on this year and want to be extra cautious so that we keep everyone as healthy as possible!

If your child has any of the following symptoms, they are required to stay home for the 10 day isolation period and 24 hours fever free, or a doctor's release or negative covid-19 test before they may return:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more
- new onset and/or worsening cough
- difficulty breathing
- or new loss of taste or smell

We ask that you keep your child home for the 10 day period (from onset of symptoms) if your child has 2 or more of the less common symptoms and no alternative diagnosis as to why:

- sore throat
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- chills
- muscle pain
- excessive fatigue
- new onset of severe headache
- new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose

When your child isn't feeling well, please contact Miss Shannon either by phone (330)896-1936 or email, smiller1950@sbcglobal.net, so we can document your child's symptoms and assess if there is any further precautions we need to take with our classes. If your child has been in close contact with someone who has Covid-19, the health department will do contact tracing and determine if your child or a class has to follow a 14 day quarantine. We are taking safety measures to try to lessen the risks to our children, but also understand that our children are with us a short time of their day, are exposed to others here and other places, and we need to continue to take universal precautions to keep everyone as healthy as possible!

We are permitted to use Hand Sanitizer with children when a sink is not available, but they are not permitted to have access to it without adult assistance, so we ask families who have included sanitizer in backpacks, or snack boxes to please remove them. We hand wash when we arrive, before snack, after restroom, when we come in from outside, when we are in contact with bodily fluids (wiping noses), anytime our hands are visibly dirty and before we go home, and use sanitizer on the playground or muscle room when a sink is not immediately available. So sanitizer in backpacks or snackboxes, in addition to being a violation of our licensing rules, won't be necessary. It will be provided by teachers at any time needed.

Drop off has been going great! Wonder why we use the color cards? It helps us to know who is picking up, recognize family members easier while they are wearing masks, and to know ahead of time who has someone new picking up that we will need to ID. If we had to look up each child's pick up list, we would lose some of the efficiency of pick up time. And this helps us to plan ahead. It is not a big deal if plans change and the same person isn't picking up. We will keep the card with us and then we will know to have that release form handy. Thanks to everyone for taking and returning your card each day. Thank you for making the first couple weeks great for staff and the kids. We couldn't do it without all of your cooperation and support!

Just a reminder, if you are a new student and haven't turned in your **medical statement**, they will be due NO LATER than October 10. Anyone who has not turned in their form by that date will not be able to attend until it has been turned in. These are ODJFS rules, so we must get these forms on file for your child. If you need a new form, stop in to the Information Station, outside of the Preschool office and pick up a new one! If you would like to have your physician fax it to us, our fax number is 330-899-9880. There is an updated list at the entrance to show if we are still in need of your medical statement or a part of it. Please double check to see if you are compliant.

Where do I return things? To help keep things organized and lessen the chance of something getting lost, please be sure to return items to the correct places.

***tuition payments:** there is a box inside of the sliding window of the MAIN office. It is labeled Loving Hands Preschool Tuition Payments. If you need a receipt, please make note on the envelope and Miss Brittney will put one in your child's mailbox as soon as payment is registered. Or if you need one sooner, you may ask the office secretary or Miss Shannon and we can provide you with one, as well.

***paperwork, medical statements, fundraiser items.** There is a basket on the desk (Information Station) outside of the preschool office. It is labeled "paperwork basket." Please return all of these items to my office. It is too hard for teachers to keep track of items left in the classrooms. Teachers may not always be able to go through backpacks during the day, so items that are left in the backpack may remain there.

As the **weather** begins to cool down, please be sure to send in a jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with your child daily. We will continue to go outside as weather permits. If you would like your child to wear sunscreen, please apply lotion before your child arrives at school. Unfortunately, we are limited on time to apply sunscreen on the children during class time.

Fall Picture Day will be on Wednesday, October 14 (Blue Room, Green Room, M/W 3's) & Thursday, October 15 (Purple Room, Yellow Room, TTH3's). Legacy Photo Services of Uniontown will take the portraits. They always do an amazing job! Picture forms will be coming home soon! Payments can be sent in the day of picture day, and handed to your child's teacher when you drop off. We will also have a Spring Picture day in March, but Legacy only takes class pictures in the fall. Even if your child is not participating in individual pictures, they will be included in the class picture (unless otherwise specified) in October.

There will be **no school on Friday, October 9**. We follow Green Schools calendar, and it is a teacher inservice day for the teachers.

We knew at the start of the year that some events and activities would need to look different. Since Open House won't be a possibility the way that we normally offer it, we will put it on hold. We will continue to look for some ideas within each class that would allow for families to have the ability to stop in and see the room again soon! We are looking at some ways to conduct a virtual open house for now. If you have ideas that you would like us to brainstorm, please feel free to email them to me. I will look them over and see if we can make them work. As for the date of October 21, we will cancel that evening in person event and find a new time/idea that works best at a later date. We always look forward to open house, so we will start coming up with ideas soon!

Our next upcoming event is our Halloween Celebrations. This year, unfortunately, we won't be able to invite our parents in to run the party, but are still hoping our party helpers will meet and plan activities for the kids to do with their class. We will have Party Chairpersons begin to reach out and plan a day for class moms to meet and plan for the party, which will now have to be teacher led (we will celebrate the party day on the original days (October 28, 29, but it will no longer be an early dismissal day for the students). Because we can't invite parents/family members to our classrooms just yet, we wanted to plan a new activity that our families could participate in. This year, we are going to invite families for a TRUNK OR TREAT. Family members (mom, dad, grandmas, grandpas, etc) are welcome to decorate their trunks or cars and come join us in the parking lot on Monday, October 26 (Orange MW or Green Room) Or Tuesday, October 27 (Orange Room TTh, Yellow Room, Purple Room and Blue Room). Because this day is going to be different, and there is no way to assure that everyone will feel comfortable participating, we are changing those days to "field trip days," which means there will be no class that day for students (Purple and Blue will have class, as usual on Monday only), instead you will bring your child to school at 11:30am on your child's Trunk or Treat day. Bring them into the building, like you would normally drop off, in their costume (and a bucket for collecting treats). Then parents can proceed back to their cars to pass out treats if they plan to participate. Each class will go through as a group, and then at the end of the parade, families will be reunited to go home. By doing it as a "field trip day," it allows families the choice whether they feel comfortable participating. We will ask that all adult participants wear a mask while handing out treats. Just a reminder, we are nut free, and ask that any treats passed out would follow those restrictions. Toys/trinkets are also great ideas. I know this is a lot of information and may be confusing. I will compile a more concise invitation for families soon. I just wanted to make sure to have parents save the date and have time to invite family members and prepare for a differently scheduled day. The more cars, the better!

Wednesday 10/28 and Thursday 10/29, will be our fall/Halloween party in our classroom. Since it will be teacher led and we won't have the normal amount of volunteers and extra help, those days will be regular class times. We will encourage parents for their input and help in planning the activities for those days, as we normally would. Parents can get together for a planning meeting, or if you are more comfortable doing it remotely or through Zoom, our party chairpersons can set that up. On the trunk or treat days, parents can drop off their activity items or donations, so that the teachers can begin setting up before their party on their next class day. We are asking parents to plan: One Halloween story, One music/movement game, one craft, and snack (nut free, and other specific classroom restrictions will be shared at the planning meetings). For the party day, children will be encouraged to wear Halloween shirts, or fall colors, instead of costumes.

There are so many changes to this school year, and we would like to thank each of you again for your flexibility with changes and willingness to help us through the transition of opening back up! We are asking families to only park on the left side of the parking lot, from where you pull in to the parking lot, down to the playground, and leave the back of the parking lot empty. We do this because there are other programs that take place in the back of the building at times during the week, and with Covid-19 regulations, those programs have become a drive thru service. In order to make a habit of leaving that area free for their set up, we are limiting our parking there at all times.

Please keep Pastor Katie in your prayers. She had surgery in August and had some health complications, which have left her out of commission for some time. We wish her a speedy recovery.

For members of our **Preschool Board**, our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 15 at 9:00am in the Library. Loving Hands Preschool is currently looking to fill 1-2 spots on our preschool board. We typically meet on a Thursday morning each month at 9:00am. If you would be interested in being considered for a seat on our board, please see Miss Shannon.

October Dates

- 9: NEOEA Day- NO SCHOOL (Green Schools closed)
- 14: Picture Day for MW3's, Green, Blue Rooms
- 15: Picture Day for TTH3's, Yellow, Purple Rooms
- 16: NOVEMBER TUITION DUE
- 16: Happy Birthday Rosie N.
- 21: Happy Birthday Kira C.
- 23: Fall Individual Learning Plan/Assessments will be sent home
- 26: Trunk or Treat 11:30: No class for Orange MW and Green Rooms



27: Trunk or Treat 11:30: No class for Orange TTH, Yellow, Purple and Blue Rooms
28: Fall/Halloween Classroom Party for MW3's and Green Room
29: Fall/Halloween Classroom Party for TTH3's, Yellow, Purple and Blue Rooms
30: Happy Birthday Olive H.
31: Happy Halloween!

Preschool 3's- Orange Room
Miss Terri & Miss Shannon B

tnettleton316@gmail.com

csbelaney@gmail.com

It has been amazing getting to know each one of our new friends this past month. In October we will continue to learn about each other and practice our class routines. This month our shape will be the triangle and the color: orange.

October brings two fall favorites: apples and pumpkins! During the beginning of the month, we will be incorporating all things apples into our stories, songs, daily centers and small groups. They will have the opportunity to weigh and measure apples, and even build their own apple tree using paper tubes, craft sticks and pom poms. We will begin to practice recognizing the letters of our names — with the special focus on their beginning letter. We will also be playing a few cooperative games during small groups. These games will help to promote taking turns, recognizing colors, counting and sorting. Towards the end of the month we will shift our focus onto pumpkins in our centers and small groups.

Another skill we are continually working on is potty independence! We always encourage them to try independently first and we will step in to help as needed. At home, you can start with having them practice independently pulling their pants and underwear down. It definitely takes a lot of practice to master this skill!

Here are a few great books about apples and pumpkins:

Apple Trouble by Ragnihild Scamell

Little Mouse and the Big Red Apple by A.H. Benjamin

Pumpkin Trouble by Jan Thomas (one of Miss Shannon B's favorite children's authors)

Pete the Cat: Five Little Pumpkins by James Dean

Pre-Kindergarten MWF- Green Room
Miss Libby & Miss Carolyn

Libbyway4@hotmail.com

The Green room is off to a fantastic start! We have been super busy already and it seems that we are all adjusting well to the classroom procedures and having fun while getting to know all our new friends.

The kids have loved sorting pretend bugs in the science center and making patterns by their shape and kind. We made our own very hungry caterpillar using a balloon to paint with! We have also enjoyed reading many books about different bugs and butterflies...the class favorite is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle! The green room can now name the four stages of the butterfly life cycle in order, complete with hand motions! Our fine motor skills were put to use when we "adopted" our very own pretend caterpillar in the form of beads on a necklace! We also created the butterfly life cycle on a plate using pasta. The excitement about caterpillars and butterflies continued as we learned about bees and ants and other insects. Who knew these tiny, sometimes creepy, creatures would be so exciting and interesting!!

Another big focus for our class this first month has been on kindness and making friends. This will continue throughout the whole year, as we believe it is very important to show the importance of being kind to others. One book we read was *A Little Spot of Kindness* by Diane Alber, in which the main character shows us how to make good choices and show kindness. We each came home that day with our own "spot" of kindness on our hands, and have since learned that we don't need to have the "Spot" on our hands to remind us to make good choices.

The kids are practicing writing their first names, and we will continue to work on that daily! We will also continue weekly letter work - including recognizing the letter, writing the letter, and learning about the sound that the letter makes! The morning journals have been a great way for us to get some extra practice on the letters at the start of each new day! We also experiment with making the letters using a variety of items, like play-doh, sand, tiny erasers, fingers, blocks, legos, and many more during our learning center time in the classroom!

The green Friday folders may be returned to school each Monday, so we can organize them and fill them with important paperwork to return on Fridays! We will collect the "peek into our week" pages in the prongs and add a new one each Friday!

October will bring new themes as we continue our progress with the alphabet letters and sounds, and numbers. We will explore farms and farm animals this month, which is always exciting and fun!

Thank you for letting us learn and grow with your children at school...we think they are each so special and can't wait to help them continue to grow this year!

Pre-Kindergarten TTHF- Yellow Room
Miss Kate & Miss Tina

misskate.lhp@gmail.com

Hello Yellow Room families! We made it through September! It seemed like we waited for school to start forever and when it did, boy did it fly by! Miss Tina and I are so impressed with how easily the children have adjusted to the school day! We are having a blast with them discussing what makes people unique and what makes up a family. As we move into this new month, we will continue to talk about our families. We will then transition to discussing all things Fall - leaves, pumpkins, apples and cooler days! As a fun substitute to our field trip, if the weather permits, Friday On October 16 will be Outdoor Day! Look for more information on that to come home soon. We will celebrate the color Orange on Oct. 23rd, right before our Halloween celebration. The last couple days of the month we will begin our unit on the ocean. It should be a whale of a time! Our October letters are D, E, F, G. Our numbers are 3, 4, 5, 6. And our shape is the triangle.

Transiti



Purple Room

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September has been a great month learning about school, as well as learning about our new friends. Every student has mastered our school motto about being safe, being kind and being responsible. We have some things planned for October that will be a lot of fun. Our class Halloween party will be at the end of the month. For now, we have our classroom donation list and appreciate everyone who has signed up to help. If you are interested in donating for our party, please let me know and I can add your name and email to our list. An email will be sent out in advance before the party to organize. I will be sending home your child's Individual Learning Plan this month, which needs to be signed and returned. This will discuss how your goals for your child will be implemented into our learning plan. Please keep an eye out for that. October will also bring our first STAR OF THE WEEK. I will send a brown paper bag home, along with the rules to fill it for their special week. We will start the month with our apples theme. The students will have fun picking apples in our classroom's own apple orchard, where they can weigh and sell at our market. We will use apples in many ways that the children would not normally expect. We will paint, experiment, and use apples for math and literacy problems. The last couple weeks of October will be about Halloween and the students can create their own potion in our potion's lab. I have some fun, fine motor and STEM activities that are sure to have everyone engaged and smiling. We will use this month to continue reviewing all capital and lower-case letters, letter sounds and numbers, focusing on our writing skills. Practice makes perfect, so please practice at home with your child. We are so excited to get October started!

Transitional Kindergarten (Full Day) - Blue Room
Miss Jessica & Miss Mary Ellen
Jfulmer0805@gmail.com

Oh, my what a great first month of school we have had. We have had so much fun getting to know everyone and learning about one another's families. We have been working on writing letters and being able to recognize them. We are going to be working on three letters at time the first couple days we will learn to recognize them and how to write them, the last couple days of the week we will work on the sound and what things begin with that letter. We will also work on a color, shape and a number for a week. We are going to keep focusing on recognizing our names by signing in every morning when the children come into the classroom.

For the month of October, as the children begin to recognize their first name, we are going to start slowly working on last names. We will begin working on fine motor skills such as cutting a line with scissors. We will continue working on letter recognition and letter sounds, along with number recognition. This month our themes will be Fall, Pumpkins and Halloween.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask or send us a Remind at any time. Can't wait to see what this month has in store for the Blue Room.

