



NEWSLETTER 1

September 2015

Pre-school telephone number during sessions - 01494 711341

Sharon Dorme - 01494 716897

Dear Friends

Welcome back to Pre-School!!!

We do hope that you have had a lovely summer with your children, and they are looking forward to coming back to pre-school to play and learn with us. Welcome especially to the new children and families joining us this term - it is lovely to see you. As usual, please do not hesitate to ask us if there is anything you are unsure of, or if you have any concerns about your child - the staff are always available to talk to you should you need us.

This newsletter is packed with lots of information. Please read carefully and make notes of all the important dates - a memory jogger list, and a list of our term dates for this year is attached.

OFSTED INSPECTION

As you are all aware, Ofsted visited us during our last week of last term, and we were thrilled when we were awarded a judgement of 'GOOD' in all areas. No setting is ever perfect and, during their morning's snapshot of what we are doing, and have been doing throughout the year, they will always find areas that they feel could be improved further, We will be looking at the areas that our inspector highlighted for us during this term.

I would like to thank all the staff and committee for their hard work, and support to me during my first year as Supervisor, and for remaining calm and showing Ofsted what a lovely Pre-School we have. The children were real stars, including our Inspector in their play, explaining to her what they were doing - and with their metal detectors they even managed to get her knee to buzz!!

It was a fantastic end to our first year!!

A copy of the Ofsted report is available using the following link to their website:

<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/CARE/EY262620>

or I do have some copies of the report already printed - if you would like a copy please ask myself or Ruth.

Website:

Our Pre-school website has undergone a huge transformation over the last year, and is full of news, pictures and reminders of events that are taking place this term. We will also use it to let you know about snow days should the need arise this autumn/winter. If you have any thoughts or suggestions of items you would like to see on our site, items which would be of interest or help you to help your child, please let us know.

Our Theme this term

This term we are going to be looking at 'All about me and my family.' We will also be looking at the leaves changing colour, harvest, digging up the flowers in the garden and planting bulbs etc. to name a few! Please keep looking at the notice board in the hall, where you will see what we are doing each week and find ideas of activities you can do at home to support your children's learning here. If the children have any photos, perhaps a leaflet of a place you may have been to, or toys they can bring to show us relating to our theme, and tell us what you have been doing too, we would love to see them.



Harvest: Friday September 25th @ 11:45am

We feel that the children are too young to perform in a full 'Harvest service' in the church, and so we are going to mark the occasion of our Church Harvest by singing a few 'harvest' nursery rhymes in our pre-school rooms, and then have a bread and cheese lunch together. **Children that do not normally come to pre-school on a Friday are invited to join us for the morning session that day.** Please do come along at 11:45am and join us – all parents/carers and grandparents.....are welcome.. This was a lovely occasion last year – please do come along and support us and your young people..

The children will be making bread rolls during the week for us to have for our lunch. Please would you complete and return the form at the end of this letter so that we know for staffing and catering purposes if you will be able to join us on that day.

The church is collecting Harvest Gifts to support the charity "One Can Trust"; we will set up a 'harvest gifts' table during the week and, if you are able to make a donation, please add your gift to the table during that week. Information about the One Can Trust charity is attached to this newsletter, giving a list of items that are most needed by the families they support.

Our gifts will be taken into the church for the Harvest Service on the Sunday (28th September) at 10:30am, to which you are also warmly invited.

LUNCH CLUB:-

Lunch Club is still available, as usual, on a Wednesday and Thursday for those children who are not doing the afternoon sessions. It will start as we finish the morning session, finish at 1:15pm, and, as before, a small fee will be payable. Lunch Club will restart next week, on Wednesday 23rd September, and forms are available from Sharon and Ruth. We are also considering running Lunch Club on a Tuesday and Friday – please could you let me know on the attached sheet whether you are interested in this. This is a separate fundraising activity, and cannot be used as part of your child's funded hours.

As well as being a sociable time for the children, who learn to manage their own lunchboxes, this is also our main fund raising activity!



IMPORTANT ***PRE-SCHOOL COMMITTEE*******

There is a vacancy on the Pre-School Committee for a Parent Representative, and I would be very grateful if you would consider whether you might join us in this important role. It is not an onerous job, but you will represent the thoughts and views of the parents at our pre-school, which is important. Your main commitment will be joining us at our termly committee meetings, which are usually held on a Thursday evening,, and you will gain an insight into the 'behind the scenes' work that goes on!! If you think this is a role you could do, please speak to Sharon.

UNIFORMS:-

We have a selection of new and second-hand (in good condition) Pre-school Sweatshirts and Polo Shirts. If anybody would like to purchase an item from our stock please let Sharon, or one of the staff know. I will be placing another uniform order for those who have expressed an interest at the end of next week. Please let me know if you would like to have an order form.



PHOTOGRAPHER – Monday 28th September from 9am:-

Information about our annual event is attached. Please would you complete the form and return it to Sharon as soon as possible.



Police Visit

The Community Police will be paying us a visit, to talk about keeping safe and let us have a look inside their police car later this term. All pre-school children are invited to take part in this event - please let Sharon or Ruth know if you would like your child to attend if it is not their normal day. More details will be provided once a date has been confirmed.

MESSAGES FROM HOME:-

Should your child comment on pre-school (good or bad) when at home we would love to know their thoughts; also we would like to know of anything they may have done or achieved in their home life which they are proud of, or would like to tell us about. Please write it down on one of the "Messages from Home" slips which can be found on the name table. and hand it to Sharon/Ruth

WATER BOTTLES:-

Please can each child bring in a water bottle for use during the session? This should be left in the 'shape group' boxes by the name cards in the morning and be collected at the end of each morning. We provide drinks at snack time (and during the session too if the children request them) but this helps the children to be independent, learn to recognise when they are thirsty and know where they can find their drink. Please ensure the water bottles are labelled clearly and only contain water!!

CLOTHES AND WELLIES

Now the weather is changing again, please can you ensure that your child has **warm clothing, a coat, and a pair of wellies** to play in outside, as we do offer the children the opportunity to go outside every day. In colder weather this should include a pair of gloves and a hat too (these can be left in your child's change of clothes bag until we need them. Please would you also ensure that they have a **complete change of clothes** at pre-school, as they do prefer to wear their own clothes if they need changing.



If possible, please would you ensure that all items of clothes are **named** as it does help us to match missing clothes to their rightful owners!!!

ADVANCE NOTICES!!!!

AGM - THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 8PM:- Our annual general meeting will take place at pre-school on the above date to which you are all invited. This is your child's pre-school so please come and support us, as we review the last year and talk about the year ahead of us. Sharon will also give a short talk on how the EYFS works in Pre-School (the curriculum which we work to and your child will be following until the end of reception), and how you can continue with this, helping your child at home.

. **"LOVE IN A BOX" SHOEBOX SCHEME:-** You may have heard about this scheme - the filling of shoeboxes to give less fortunate children in other parts of the world a Christmas present. Our church is taking part in this venture and pre-school have been asked to take part. There will be a Shoebox Workshop on the morning in October for those who are interested in helping to fill the boxes, or you can just collect things. Watch out for details! All are welcome!!



SUNDAY LIVE:-

You may have seen the posters advertising this service (both in the church and the village) which is primarily designed for children and their families in our community. Our church invites you to join them on the second Sunday of each month @ 9.30am - please do come along and join us - you can be sure of a friendly welcome. The next Sunday Live service will be on October 11th. For more information please talk to Sharon or Ruth.



If your child is unwell.....

Should your child have a temperature, be sick in the night, have a heavy cold or be taking antibiotics, please do not send them to pre-school. If a child has sickness or diarrhoea they should be free from both for 48 hours before returning. We appreciate that your child may “want to come” to pre-school, but a day or two at home will help to stop the spread of infection, whilst rest will be beneficial. **We would appreciate a phone call if your child is unwell, as we may need to notify other pre-school families should the illness be infectious.**

Food in Pre-school.

Please do not bring in food for the children without prior consultation. We aim to keep the pre-school a **nut – free zone** and we also have children with other special dietary requirements.

PARENT ROTA:-

If you can spare a morning and would like to come in and the help the children, please sign up on the form displayed on the preschool notice board. Just reading a story to a child or a small group can be so rewarding. If you enjoy yourself and wish to come in regularly, we would then ask you to complete an enhanced disclosure form for the DBS

And Finally.....

Please don't forget to make a note of the dates on the attached list – and we look forward to seeing you at the various events!

Please can you return your completed form to me as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support

Sharon Dorme and all the pre-school staff.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Harvest Celebration and Lunch	Friday 25 th September
Church Harvest festival	Sunday 27 th September
Photographer	Monday 28 th September - details attached
Sunday Live	Sunday 12 th October 9.30am All Welcome
Pre-School AGM Meeting	Thursday 15 th October @ 8pm – see above
Visit from the Community Police	October/November

Pre-school closes for half term **Friday 23rd October at 12.15pm**

Shoebox Workshop October - details to follow

Pre-school re-opens	Monday 2nd November at 9.15am
Sunday Live	Sunday 8 th November 9.30am All Welcome
Sunday Live	Sunday 13 th December 9.30am All Welcome
Nativity Dress Rehearsal	Monday 14 th December
	All children to arrive at 9.15 – details to follow
Nativity Performance	Tuesday 15 th December –
	All children to arrive at 9.15 – details to follow
Christmas Party	Wednesday 16 th December –
	All children to arrive at 10.30 – details to follow
Pre-school closes	Wednesday 16th December at 1pm after party

Pre-school re-opens on Tuesday 5th January 2016 at 9.15am

Term Dates for the 2015/16 Academic Year

Autumn Term 2015

Pre-School opens	Monday 7 th September
Pre-school closes	Friday 23 rd October
Pre-School opens	Monday 2 nd November
Pre-School closes	Wednesday 16 th December @ 1pm (There will be no afternoon session)

Spring Term 2016

Pre-School opens	Tuesday 5 th January
Pre-School closes	Friday 12 th February
Pre-school opens	Monday 22 nd February
Pre-School closes	Thursday 24 th March

Summer Term 2016

Pre-School opens	Tuesday 12 th April
Pre-School closes	Friday 27 th May
Pre-school opens	Monday 6 th June
Pre-School closes	Friday 15 th July

Complaints:

A copy of our Complaints Policy/Procedure is available on request. In the event of you having a complaint against the pre-school that cannot be settled "in house", your next point of call is OFSTED as stated in the policy/procedure.

OFSTED HELPLINE 0300 123 1231. We hope this will not be necessary