



NEWSLETTER 2

January 2018

Pre-school telephone number during sessions – 01494 711341
Sharon Dorme – 01494 716897

Dear Friends

This term is now well underway, and we would like to give a warm welcome to the new children and families who have joined us this term – it is good to see you. Please do not hesitate to ask us if there is anything you are unsure of – the staff are always available and I know that Claire, Amy's mummy (who is your parent representative on our Committee) and our other parents will be willing to provide you with help if you need it too!

We have a shorter term ahead of us this term, and a note of the dates and activities that will be taking place are provided in this newsletter – please make a note of them in your diaries.

This term!!

Hopefully you will have seen on our parents notice board some of the activities that we have been doing this half term – we have made the most of the variety of weather conditions outside, and inside we have been adding to our weather picture with rainbows, a snowman, clouds, rain.....you name it and hopefully we will find it there!

We have been practicing our fire drills and trying hard to understand the need to listen, so that we stay safe!! Not always easy when you would rather play!! We've also learnt London's Burning and are trying some 'Magic music' when we sing it as a round!! If we get it right, we'll show you our new skill at the Spring Service.....watch this space!

The children might also have told you that we have had had visits from Alison Higham this term, who has been doing some 'Bounce and Rhyme' sessions, and last week we had a visit from Premier Sports who introduced the children to 'gymnastics and football' – a big hit!! We hope to use some of our fundraising money to make these a regular feature in our termly activities as the children benefit enormously from these outside activities. Claudia, Bella and Thomas's mummy is going to lead a Brazilian Festival morning for us on the Thursday during our first week back after half term – it sounds like a big party, so we hope the children will enjoy taking part in Bella and Thomas's family culture. The Festival takes place in Brazil at the end of February, so we will have our own version here! All the children are welcome to come and join in if they would like to – please let me know, if this is not normally your day.

Termly Parent Interview Week (week commencing 6th March)

Interview sheets will be available, as usual, after half-term. This is the opportunity for you to see your children's files and have a glimpse into their life at pre-school, have a 1:1 chat with your key person about your children's progress and their 'next steps' at pre-school, and how we can work together to support their development through the EYFS.

As always, please do not wait for these sessions to talk to us if you have any concerns – we are available to chat to you at all times!

World Book Day: 1st March 2018



children).

Each of the children will be given a token to put towards the cost of a new book, and at pre-school we will be having a 'library' role play area. Please can your child bring in their favourite story for 'show and tell', and we will try to make sure we read all the books that are brought in at story time, or in our 'library'. **(Please will you make sure that the book is marked somewhere with your child's name so that it does not get mixed with our own books/those of the other**

If your child would like to dress up as a character from their favourite books during this week, we would love to see this, but it is **not** compulsory!!! Donations will be in aid of pre-school!!!

Spring Service and lunch - Friday 9th March 2018



We would like to invite **all** the pre-school children to join us for the **whole morning session**. The children will be learning songs to sing to you for our little church service, which will be followed by our traditional ploughman's lunch. There is no charge for the lunch, but any donations will be put to pre-school funds. **Please will you let myself or Ruth know if you and your child are not able to be with us on this day.**

Parking

I know that parking can be a bit difficult when dropping off and collecting your child, but ***please do not block the driveway*** to the pre-school. We do need to be able to park staff cars off the road, and ensure that there is sufficient room for emergency vehicles to reach the doors should the need arise. Thank you for your understanding in this.

Outdoor Clothes for Outdoor Play and Changes of Clothes!!!



We play outside for some (if not all) of each pre-school session, no matter what the weather! Please could you continue to make sure that your child brings his/her coat with them each day, and has a named pair of gloves, and warm hat, at pre-school. Each child should also have a named pair of wellies, as the garden does get wet, and a bit slippery, when it is frosty. Please also remember to provide your child with a complete change of clothes and leave it on their peg

- it would be especially helpful if you could make sure that your **children's bags are named** – we sometimes have to play a guessing game during the mornings when they become separated from their owners coats!

WATER BOTTLES:-

Each child should bring a filled water bottle for use during the session which should be left in the 'shape group' boxes by the name cards in the morning and be collected at the end of each session. 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 clearly labelled, as a few children do have the same bottle, and they should only contain water!!**

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.

I have attached a copy of a letter we have received again this term from the CAPT warning us about the dangers of providing the children with whole grapes. At pre-school we do ensure that all grapes are cut in half, but we would like to pass on this message to make you aware of the dangers with this seemingly innocent fruit. Lunch time is another time when such a danger might arise, as the children chat while they eat. **Please would you ensure that, if your child brings grapes in their packed lunch that they are cut in half – and also any cherry tomatoes – so that we can attempt to prevent this situation happening.** Thank you.



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.

PARENT ROTA:-

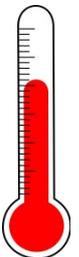
If you can spare a morning and would like to come in and help the children, please sign up on the form displayed on the preschool notice board - the children love to see you, and hear you read a story to them! If you

enjoy yourself and wish to come in regularly, we would then ask you to complete an enhanced disclosure form for the DBS

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 must be free from both for 48 hours before returning. This will help us to stop the spread of infection.

Please don't forget to let us know if your child is to be absent from pre-school – a quick phone call will be sufficient if your child is unwell, but I would ask to have a letter advising us of holiday absences. This is so that I can provide our finance auditors with explanations of absences from pre-school when we are receiving funding for the children's attendance (and it also helps us for planning purposes too!) Our contact phone numbers are listed above.



LUNCH CLUB

Lunch Club forms are now available for this half term. Please ask Sharon or Ruth if you would like your child to join in. Lunch Club runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for those children who do not stay for the afternoon sessions, but would like to stay and have lunch with their friends. Lunch Club finishes at 1:15pm for these children.

Please would you ensure that all grapes/cherry tomatoes are cut in half, so that we can try and avoid the danger of choking on these seemingly innocent fruits. Lunch time is a time when such a danger might arise, as the children chat while they eat.



And finally:

Fundraising.

Thank you so much to Claire, and everyone who was involved in the fundraising which took place last term – we are extremely grateful for all your support and hard work. The final total amounted to over £650, a momentous achievement. I understand another family disco is being planned, so watch this space!!!

We are also continuing to raise funds through the easy giving site – if you order online and complete your order through the **easygiving** page, nominating pre-school as your chosen charity, you raise funds for us without actually doing anything! You can even set up your phone/computer/etc to remind you to do it as you order!! (Even I, with my very limited computer skills have managed this – it's amazing how quickly it adds up, and also how many of the big names are included (including John Lewis,

Amazon, Sainsburys, Travelodge – just a few that I have shopped with this year). Please see Claire or myself for more information.

Your fund raising efforts have helped this term to not only provide additional equipment for the children, but also to contribute towards the cost of additional training for the staff – to inspire new ideas, learn new skills and update their knowledge!!

These are the some of the courses we have been on this term:

Sharon: Updating the SEF (a self evaluation form required by Ofsted which shows how we evaluate our own practice, and our plans for the future), and Eat Better, Start Better

Ruth: Superheroes Extravaganza!!

Ujju: Making play better: preparation for amazing play!

Elena: Eat Better, Start Better and Magical Imaginative Play!

Nikki: Teaching phonics, and Understanding British Values

Rebecca: Making Maths Matter

In addition, a number of us have renewed our First Aid, Safeguarding and Food Hygiene Courses and Ruth is attending a SENco course.

Happy Birthday TO Us!!!!

This year we are 50 years old, and we plan to have a big celebration in the Summer Term – please watch this space!!!! If you have any ideas on how we could celebrate, please do let me know all contributions gratefully received!!!!

We finish for half term on Friday 9th February, and return on Monday 19th February at 9:15 am. We hope you have a restful and enjoyable time with your children, and we look forward to seeing you all when we return on Monday 19th February at 9.15am.

Sharon Dorme and all the pre-school staff

Dates for your diary: Reminder

w/c 6th Feb: Parent Interviews – 2 year check
w/c 6th March: Parent Interviews – all other children
w/c 26th February: Dressing up week as a story character: bring a book
1st March: World Book Day
9th March: Spring Service and Lunch: **all** children at pre-school for this session

Term Dates for the 2017/18 Academic Year

Spring Term 2018

Pre-School closes Friday 9th February
Pre-school opens Monday 19th February
Pre-School closes Thursday 29th March

Summer Term 2018

Pre-School opens Monday 16th April
Pre-School closes Friday 25th May
Pre-school opens Monday 4th June
Pre-School closes Friday 20th 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