



# September 2017

Pre-school telephone number during sessions – 01494 711341

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Sharon Dorme – 01494 716897

**Dear Friends,**

Welcome back to our new term, and a warm welcome to the new children and families who have joined us – 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 full of information about our pre-school routines and activities for the coming term. Please read it 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. There is even advance notice of our Christmas dates!!

A big well done to Ruth from us all for completing the Great North Run on September 10<sup>th</sup> – and then making it into work the next day, after a long journey back from Sunderland afterwards!! Dedicated and determined are her middle names!! She will be collecting sponsorship money from all those who sponsored her - and those who may still like to contribute. Pre-school is one of the charities that will benefit from her magnificent effort.

### **Parent Representative:**

Just to remind you that Claire Richardson (Amy's mummy) is your new parent representative, and if you have any issues – either positive or negative! – and would like her to talk about them on your behalf at our committee meetings, please do have a chat with her. We welcome all constructive comments and are open to new ideas!! Our next committee meeting is scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fund Raising:**

Thank you so much for all your fundraising efforts last year – we are in the process of ordering some new toys and equipment for both indoors and outdoors which we hope your children will enjoy – we will hopefully be able to put them out on display at the AGM for you to see!

### **Lunch Club:-**

Lunch Club is available, as usual, on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for those children who are not doing the afternoon sessions. It starts as we finish the morning session, finishes at 1:15pm, and a small fee is payable. Forms are available from Sharon and Ruth. This is a separate fundraising activity, and cannot be used as part of your child's funded hours. It is a sociable time for the children, who also learn to manage their own lunchboxes! PLEASE ensure that your children's lunchboxes are as **healthy** as you can make them, that they only contain as much food as your child would normally eat at home, and **DO NOT CONTAIN NUTS** (including peanut butter). We do have children with allergies at preschool and we need to ensure that we keep the setting a nut free zone. Thank you for helping us with this.



### **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 could you ensure your child's water bottles is labelled clearly with his/her name**, as there has been some confusion about which bottle belongs to who! The water bottles should **only** contain water, and **not juices/squash**.

### **Uniform**

We will be putting in a uniform order on Monday next week (2<sup>nd</sup> October). There is no obligation for your children to wear our pre-school polo shirts and sweat shirts – but some parents do find it easier as it saves their children's own clothes, and also any arguments about what clothes are going to be worn that day!! Payment is due when the order is received. Please see Sharon or Ruth for an order form.

**Dates for your diary: Please see overleaf for each half term's activities.....**

**Harvest Festival: This Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

You are warmly invited to our harvest celebrations at 11:15am in the pre-school rooms. The children are learning a few harvest type songs to sing to you, and we are talking about the farmers, what harvest is, and how our harvest gifts are distributed.

Harvest gifts will be given to ‘one can’ again this year, a charity which supports those families for whom buying food is difficult due to their personal circumstances. A leaflet giving details of the foods and equipment that are needed is attached to this letter.

**ALL CHILDREN** are invited to the session on Friday, which will be followed, in our usual tradition, by a ploughman’s lunch for us all.

If your child will **NOT** be attending please can you let me know – thank you.

**Pre – School AGM: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 8pm**

Your opportunity to come along and see the workings of our pre-school! This is our opportunity to review the workings of our pre-school over the last year, to look forward to the coming year, and for you to have your input into our way forward. Please do come along and support us in this. Our meeting generally lasts for approx an hour, and I will do a short talk on ‘how you can help your children in the EYFS at home’, as this is usually an area where parents comment that they would like additional support. If, however, you have anything else that is a concern, that would be helpful to other parents, and you feel we as a staff can support you and other parents with, then please let me know - we may be able to incorporate this as well/instead.

**Children in Need Week: 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November**



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November is ‘Children in Need’ Day and we would like to raise some money, as we traditionally do, for this very worthwhile charity. So.....

! Please encourage your children to come in fancy dress all week!!! The charge for doing so is a donation to Children in Need – a tub will be on the table for you to put your donations into!! We are also going to fill a teddy bear with small change!! Please bring in any coins you have to spare, no amount is too small or too large, and the children will help to stick them to our teddy bear during the week. Our target is to have no space unfilled!!

If you would like to donate to the charity through pre-school, please hand your gifts to Sharon or Ruth, and we will include them in our donation. We will count the total collected at the end of the week and let you know the amount we have sent to the charity! Thank you for your support.

**Parent Interview Weeks:**

**2 year check: Week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

Key workers will talk to you individually if your child is due to have a 2 year check, and will arrange a time that is convenient to you both. This will focus on the prime areas of learning, and is an opportunity to have an insight into your child's first few weeks at pre-school.

**All other children: Week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> November**

Shortly after half – term you will find a sheet on the table inviting you to sign up for your termly Parent Interview. This is the opportunity for you to see your children’s files and have a glimpse into the life they have at pre-school and hear about their progress. You also have a 1:1 chat with your key person about your children’s ‘next steps’ at pre-school, and how we can work together to support your child’s development through the EYFS.

These interviews will be for all children except those who joined us in September, as you will already have spoken with your key person. If you would like the opportunity for another 1:1 meeting please let Sharon or Ruth know.

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!

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Watch this space for the introduction of a new regular ‘bounce and rhyme’ session and a police visit!! Arrangements are currently in hand, and we will let you know as soon as they are finalized!!

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### **ADVANCE NOTICE for Christmas!!**

Christmas feels like it is a long way off still, but we have been working in conjunction with Holmer Green First School to ensure that our dates for our Christmas arrangements are in line this year!!

So our dates for the final week of term will run as follows:

Monday and Tuesday (December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>) : Pre School will run as normal for all children. (Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> will be the First School play dress rehearsal to which the older children are always invited – more details will be provided nearer the time).

#### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December morning session: Christmas Party. 9:15am – 12:15pm**

**ALL CHILDREN** are invited to the morning session, whether or not they usually attend on a Wednesday. The morning party session will finish at 12:15pm as usual for those children who usually attend for just the morning and Pre-School will be open as usual in the afternoon. We will have party food at snack time – those children staying all day should bring their packed lunch as normal.

#### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December morning session Nativity Dress Rehearsal**

**ALL CHILDREN** are invited to this session, when we will hold the dress rehearsal for our nativity play. We will also take photos of the children in their costumes which will be available for you to see, and order if you would like to, on Friday. The afternoon session will run as normal – those children who usually stay should bring their packed lunch.

#### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity Play**

**ALL CHILDREN** invited to this session. The nativity play will start at 11:30am(the church doors are opened at approx 11am) and, as usual, you are invited to stay for a drink and mince pie afterwards. All your guests are welcome to join us for this very special event.

**If I have missed anything, or you need more information, please do let me know!!  
Please could you also let me know if your child WILL NOT be attending any of the morning sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Thank you.**

### **ADVANCE ADVANCE NOTICE: Golden Anniversary!!!!**

Our pre-school will be 50 years old next year – watch this space for details of our celebrations in the Summer Term!! If you have any ideas on how we could celebrate this extra special year for us please let me know!!

And Generally.....

#### **Outdoor Clothes for Outdoor Play!!!**

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 for any reason. (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!!!)



#### **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



### **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 the rest will be beneficial. Please phone and let us know if your child is unwell, as not only may we need to notify other pre-school families should the illness be infectious, we are also required to mark your child’s absence in our daily register.

### **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 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.....\_**

### **Lending Library:**

This is now available again – please see Nikki if you would like to borrow any of our chatterboxes/rucksacks/story sacks, to encourage your child to talk about what they can see. A lovely way to spend some special 1:1 time.

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!

Thank you for your support

Sharon Dorme and all the pre-school staff.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Harvest Celebration and Lunch	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September
Church Harvest festival	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October
Pre-School AGM Meeting	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October @ 8pm – see above
Visit from the Community Police	October/November
Bounce and Rhyme	To be advised!

**Pre-school closes for half term**                      **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 12.15pm**

<b>Pre-school re-opens</b>	<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am</b>
2 Year check Interviews	W/c Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November
Parent Interviews	W/c Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November
Children In Need Week	W/C Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November
HG 1 <sup>st</sup> School Dress Rehearsal	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Party	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December
All children to arrive at 9.15 – details to follow	
Nativity Dress Rehearsal	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December
All children to arrive at 9.15 – details to follow	
Nativity Performance	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December –
All children to arrive at 9.15 – details to follow	
<b>Pre-school closes</b>	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 12:15pm after the nativity.</b>

**Pre-school re-opens on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 9.15am**

## Term Dates for the 2017/18 Academic Year

### Autumn Term 2017

Pre-School opens	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September
Pre-school closes	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Pre-School opens	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October
Pre-School closes	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December @ 12:15pm

### Spring Term 2018

Pre-School opens	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January
Pre-School closes	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
Pre-school opens	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Pre-School closes	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March

### Summer Term 2018

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