



50th Birthday Save the Day Saturday July 7th

April 2018

NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Friends,

Welcome back after our Easter break, and a particularly 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 were sorry to say goodbye to Julia, who had been volunteering with us for a few years, during the last week of last term – she has found paid employment in another field, and we wish her well in her new career. However, we now have a couple of days each week when we do not have a volunteer, so if you feel you can spare a morning to not only help us out but see how your children play and learn each day, please have a word with me.

We have a long and busy 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 do make a note of them in your diaries, and I will try to do some memory joggers as needed on the noticeboard as we near each one! There is a little information, on each one, below. And, where I can, I have tried to liaise with the Holmer Green primary schools to ensure our dates don't clash!

This term!!

Please do keep an eye on the parent notice board that Rebecca updates for us regularly, so that you know what we are doing, and get some ideas on how you can help your children at home. If you need any more ideas please do speak to me/Ruth – or any one of the staff team!

This term we are focusing on being healthy and active – our noticeboards are filling up with collages of foods that are good for us, and some that we should only eat every now and again as a treat! Please see below for details of our other activities. We will be wearing sunhats outside, and we would ask you please to ensure that your children have sunscreen applied before they come to pre-school.

Food Policy

We have now have a new 'food policy' which was agreed by our committee last term, which you are welcome to see - please have a word with Sharon if you would like to have a look at this.

In this policy we have said that, as a pre-school, we will try and keep the foods and drinks that we provide your children with as healthy as possible. Please can I encourage you to join us in keeping to our aims, by ensuring that your children's lunchboxes contain as few 'processed' foods as possible, and only as much food as your child would normally eat at home so that the children are not overwhelmed by the quantity of food in front of them? Thank you! Ideally lunchboxes should contain water as a drink, rather than fruit shoots/other squash alternatives.

Outside Visitors this term!

Alison Higham is returning to do some 'Bounce and Rhyme' sessions and 'Premier Sports', who introduced the children to 'gymnastics and football' last term, are returning each half term!

I will also be arranging for the community police to chat to the children about road safety, in preparation for their transition to school, and there is also the possibility of an ambulance visit.

This term, too, we will have visits from the reception teachers at the children's chosen schools – they will be contacting us nearer half term to visit the children in their familiar surroundings to get to know them.

If you have any skills/talents that you feel you could share with us, please have a word with me – we are always keen to try out new activities and introduce the children to new skills/experiences.

Mop End Visit – Friday 18th May 2018, 10am – 1pm

Our annual trip to Mop End is coming up quickly. **All** the children are invited to this activity, whether or not they usually attend on a Friday, and we do hope that they are able to come as it is such a fun visit where we learn lots about the world around us. There is **no pre-school at the church hall this day**.

A letter giving more information about this is attached – please could you return the reply slip as soon as you can.

Woodrow Family Sports and Picnic – Friday 29th June, 10am – 1pm

Our annual games and picnic morning is for **all** pre-school children, their parents and carers, and their younger siblings. A great morning of fun, games, socialising and of course picnicking!! Details and further information will follow nearer the time.

Termly Parent Interviews.

Meetings with the parents of those children who have joined us this term will take place during the week before half term, (w/c 21st May). Your key person will chat with you to arrange a convenient time.

Meetings with the parents of all other children will take place during the week commencing 11th June, and interview sheets for these 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!

50th Birthday Party: Saturday July 7th Special celebration at our children's service, Sunday July 8th, 9.30am

The date is set – please keep it free!!! We'll let you know more details as they emerge, but please do come and help us to celebrate this fantastic achievement! Claire will be looking for volunteers to help to coordinate this!!!

On Sunday July 8th we will be celebrating the life of pre-school in our monthly Sunday Live service, designed for children and the young at heart! We would love to see you there – the service lasts for approximately 45 mins.

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC: Friday 20th JULY

ALL children are invited to join us @ 9.15am on this last day of term to help prepare and then enjoy a picnic with their teddy bears. Pre-school closes after the End of Term Concert. **Then we have our.....**

END of TERM CONCERT – Friday 20th JULY- 11.30am

To finish the term and to say goodbye to those children moving on to school we will again be holding our end of term concert. The children will prepare some rhymes and songs, and the older children find their confidence and perform their version of a traditional story for your entertainment – an event not to be missed! **All** the children will be involved in some way – please do make a note of the date! All are welcome in the church – parents, grandparents and carers, and siblings.

GDPR (Data Processing regulations)

I am in the process of understanding our responsibilities with regard to this and writing a new policy – but please be aware that our paperwork will need to be updated in the next month, and I will be asking that you complete new forms so that we meet with the requirements of this new legislation. It is important that I receive the updated paperwork from you as quickly as possible, so I will be grateful for your co-operation and understanding.

Lunch Club

Lunch Club forms are 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 session, 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.



Chatting at home!!

Don't forget, we have a supply of 'chatterboxes' and 'rucksacks' which we would like to encourage you to borrow, take home, and enjoy with your child, encouraging them to talk to you about what they see and know, It is designed to be a special time for you and your child, and to encourage the children to grow in confidence as they learn to talk about what they see/feel etc. My only request is that, should an item be lost or broken, you replace it so the next person has the same enjoyment from the item that your child has had. Nikki is looking after this 'chatting matters' initiative – please do chat to her if you would like to borrow one of our 'chatterbags'!!

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!

With the expected change in the weather this term (we are ever hopeful!!), please could you make sure that your child now has a **named** sunhat with them each day, preferably that we can keep at pre-school for the term. (We do have a generous supply of spares if one is forgotten one day, but the children do prefer to wear their own!). The children are learning how important it is for them to wear their hats, and our rule is that they **must** wear a hat if they want to play outside. Please also remember to provide your child with a complete change of clothes and leave it on their peg – this is not just for ‘accidents’ - we do play with water a lot during our sessions, particularly this term and, while we do try to teach hand/eye co-ordination, sometimes the water just doesn’t do what they want it to!!!

Please would you also apply sun cream to your child before they come in to pre-school.

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!!**

MESSAGES FROM HOME:-



Should your child comment on pre-school (good or bad) when at home we would like 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.

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.

And finally:

New Learning Journals

We are considering changing the way we complete our children’s learning journey files, and have been looking at an online system called Tapestry (used by a number of other local pre-schools) where you will receive regular copies of photos/observations throughout the term, with the opportunity to comment on these as we go along – giving you a birds eye view of your child’s day in pre-school as we go through the term.

We are in the early stages of investigating this, but as a staff we are quite excited by the idea. You will have access to your own child’s journey when you want to, and we can arrange for a copy to be printed at the end of their time at pre-school if you would like to have one, so your child still has a record of their time at pre-school.

Before we are able to continue with this idea we will need to have a number of ‘kindle fires’, to enable the photos/videos to be taken, and forwarded to you – 6 in total, one for each key person and so this is our next fundraising target!

The new system will take a little while for us to adapt to, but we are hoping to start it as we return to pre-school in September. If you have any thoughts on this I would be pleased to hear them.

Sharon Dorme and all the pre-school staff

Dates for your diary: Reminder

2 May:	Premier Sports
8 May:	Bounce 'n' Rhyme
18 th May:	Mop End for all children
w/c 21 st May:	Parent Interviews – 2 year checks
w/c 11 th June:	Parent Interviews – all other children
13 th June:	Premier Sports
29 th June:	Woodrow Games and Picnic for all children and their families
7 th July:	Pre-school 50 th birthday party
20 th July:	Teddy bears Picnic followed by the Leavers Concert – for all children

Term Dates for the 2017/18 Academic Year

Summer Term 2018

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

Term Dates for the 2018/19 Academic Year

Autumn Term 2018

Pre-School opens	Monday 10 th September '18
Pre-School closes	Friday 19 th October '18
Half Term (1 week)	
Pre-School opens	Monday 29 th October '18
Pre-School closes	Wednesday 19 th December '18

Spring Term '19

Pre-School opens	Monday 7 th January '19
Pre-School closes	Friday 15 th February '19
Half Term (1 week)	
Pre-School opens	Monday 25 th February '19
Pre-School closes	Thursday 5 th April '19

Summer Term '19

Pre-School opens	Monday 24 th April '19
Pre-School closes	Friday 24 th May '19
Half Term (1week)	
Pre-School opens	Monday 3 rd June '19
Pre-School closes	Friday 19 th July '19

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**