



# September 2018

Pre-school telephone number during sessions – 01494 711341  
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!!***

### **Parent Representative:**

Alison Hlgham (Ethan's mummy) has volunteered to be your parent representative on our pre-school committee, a role she filled when her elder son was at pre-school. If you are in agreement with her stepping into Claire's shoes, please do come to our AGM on Thursday next week and vote her in! I know she will be looking for support from you all. Her role is to bring any issues – either positive or negative! – to our committee meetings and speak on your behalf – and she may well be doing a spot of fundraising too!! Please do talk with her, and let her have your views and opinions. We welcome all constructive comments and are always open to new ideas!!

### **Tapestry!!!**

NO, this is not the sewing variety!!! During the summer we purchased a kindle for each member of staff, with a view to trying out this new 'digital' form of record keeping, and this term the staff have been doing a trial run. The children will still have 'folders' containing their learning journals, but the majority of the observations and photos that are taken of your children will very soon be available for you to see almost immediately they are completed. We have been talking with other local pre-schools who currently use this system and they are very enthusiastic about it, and say the families are too, so we do hope you will find this as an exciting new venture as we are hoping it will be.

Your child's details will be available only to you, and will be accessed via a password system. More details to follow very soon.

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

### **Pre – School AGM: Thursday 11<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, in which I also try to do a short talk on an area that is highlighted by yourselves as one in which you would like some additional support. This usually 'how you can help your children in the EYFS at home', 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. I'll look forward to seeing you there – if you are unable to make it please do let me know.~

### **Premier Sports: Wednesdays 10<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November**

The staff of Premier Sports, who have run football and dance sessions for us this year are visiting again on the above dates! The children really enjoy these sessions, so if it is a day when your child doesn't normally attend and you would like them to join in, please let Sharon/Ruth know.

### **Children in Need Week: 12<sup>th</sup> – 16th November**



◆ We

Friday 16<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!!

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.

### **World Nursery Rhyme Week: 19 – 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

We sing lots of nursery rhymes, as you know, and this year there is to be a 'Nursery Rhyme Week' that we can join in with! There are lot of activities for us to do, so watch this space!!

### **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.

### **Parent Interview Weeks:**

#### **2 year check: Week commencing 5<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 12<sup>th</sup> November**

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!

### **ADVANCE NOTICE for Christmas!! 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Our plans for the final week of term will run as follows – please put the dates in your diaries now!!

***All children are invited to pre-school on each day, whether or not it is your normal day for attending. Please note there will be NO AFTERNOON SESSIONS this week only.***

#### **Monday December 17<sup>th</sup>**

This will contain the dress rehearsal for our nativity play. Photos will be taken of all the children in their costumes, and copies will be on display at the nativity for you to order and purchase if you wish.

## **Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Pre-School Nativity Play – our usual traditional play, in the church, in which **all** the children have a part to play. The play starts at 11.30am, and is followed by coffee and mince pies in the hall afterwards while you wait for your children to change again. The church doors will be open for you to find a seat at 11am. *As usual, all your guests are welcome to join us for this very special event.*

## **Wednesday 19<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. We will have party food at snack time – and we're hoping our orders to a very special gentleman, and to our entertainer have reached their destinations!!

**If I have missed anything, or you need more information, please do let me know - there will be more information about these arrangements nearer the time.**

**Please could you also let me know if your child WILL NOT be attending any of the morning sessions on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of our final week of term. Thank you.**

And Generally.....

### **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**.

### **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.

**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!

Thank you for your support

Sharon Dorme and all the pre-school staff.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Premier Sports	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October
Pre-School AGM Meeting	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> October @ 8pm – see above
<b>Pre-school closes for half term</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 12.15pm</b>
<b>Pre-school re-opens</b>	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am</b>
2 Year check Interviews	W/c Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
Parent Interviews	W/c Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> November
Children in Need Week	W/C Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> November
Premier Sports	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November
Nursery Rhyme Week!	W/C Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> November
Nativity Dress Rehearsal	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
All children to arrive at 9.15 – details to follow	
Nativity Performance	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December –
All children to arrive at 9.15 – details to follow. NO AFTERNOON SESSION	
Christmas Party	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
All children to arrive at 9.15 – details to follow. NO AFTERNOON SESSION	
<b>Pre-school closes</b>	<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12:15pm after the party.</b>

**Pre-school re-opens on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 9.15am**

### Term Dates for the 2018/19 Academic Year

#### Autumn Term 2018

Pre-School opens	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September
Pre-school closes	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October
Pre-School opens	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October
Pre-School closes	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December @ 12:15pm

#### Spring Term 2019

Pre-School opens	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January
Pre-School closes	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February
Pre-school opens	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February
Pre-School closes	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> April

#### Summer Term 2019

Pre-School opens	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April
Pre-School closes	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May
Pre-school opens	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
Pre-School closes	Friday 19 <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 do hope this will not be necessary