



# NEWSLETTER 2

January 2019

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

Dear Friends

This term is now 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 Ali Higham Ethan'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 really sorry to say goodbye to Elena last week as she left us to start new full-time employment in a completely different field to childcare!! We wish her lots of luck and happiness in her new role. I know she was sad to leave us, and she appreciated your gifts and good wishes. We are in the process of recruiting a new member of staff, and will let you know when we have appointed somebody to join our team.

We are also looking forward to seeing Vida (our minister and chair of our committee) return again this term, after a very difficult time for her and her family over the Christmas period following the death of her daughter at the beginning of December.

We have a shorter term ahead of us this term, but it is full of things for us to do, 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.

## Fundraising.

Thank you to Ali, 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 £550, a momentous achievement. Thank you to you all. I still have a few calendars available for sale costing £5 each. Please let me know if you would like one.

We are also continuing to raise funds through the easy giving site – if you order online and complete your order through the **easyfundraising** page, nominating pre-school as your chosen charity, you raise funds for us without actually doing, or it costing you anything. You can even set up your phone/computer/etc to remind you to do it as you order!!

All these amounts add up very quickly, and really help us to provide activities for your children at a time when our costs are going up – but the amount we receive for our fee income is not. We really appreciate everything you do to support us.

Please see Alison or myself for more information.

Thank you too for your Children in Need Contributions – we have been given a certificate to say we raised £24.14!! Our Pudsey bear was full of coins!!

## Tapestry

We do hope you are enjoying our new record keeping system. If you haven't yet activated your account please do so – and please do use it as a means of showing your keyperson things that your children have done at home too.

## World Book Day: 7th March 2019



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, 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 children).**

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 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

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.**

## **Keeping Fit and Healthy!!**

As you know, we encourage the children to be fit and healthy at pre-school – both in the activities, snacks and conversations we have at pre-school, and by asking you to provide a 'healthy eating' lunchbox when your child stays for lunch.

This term 'Premier Sports' are coming in to run sessions on 6<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> March, when the children have the opportunity to take part in football and dance sessions, and 'Rugby Tots' visited us for the first time on 17<sup>th</sup> January to introduce the children to rugby – it was a great success, and a big hit with the children!!

Each of these sessions cost the pre-school a fee, and I would like to ask if you would be willing to make a nominal voluntary contribution towards the cost of us providing these extra activities. A form is attached for you to let me know – please can you return it to me as soon as you are able.

## **New Intake Parent Meetings: 2 year Check (week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> March)**

If your child started pre-school this term, your key person will be chatting to you to arrange a convenient time to have a discussion. This gives you the opportunity to have a glimpse into your child's pre-school life, and ask any questions you may have. (The 2 year check covers the Prime areas of the Foundation Stage only. If your child has had a 2 year check with their health visitor please would you let your key person know, and if possible let us have a copy of their report).

## **Termly Parent Interview Week (week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> March)**

This is the opportunity for you to 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.

These interviews will be for all children **except** those who have joined us this term, as you will already have spoken with your key person.

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!

## **Updating your information**

We have had a couple of instances recently where we have needed to contact you and we have realized that the information we hold for you is now out of date – mainly due to mobile phone numbers being changed.

So that I can make sure that the information I hold is current, please can you fill in the attached form, and return it to me as soon as possible – Thank you!

## **Snow Days**

While we try and keep pre-school open during bad weather, there are occasions where we need to close because it is not safe for us open, or because a number of our staff who do not live in the village are finding it hard to get to work and we are unable to maintain the required safe ratios of adults : children . We will put a notice on our facebook page, on our website and on the Bucks County Council website under the 'School Closures' section as soon as we are able to, to let you know if we are closing. If you are not able to find the information you are looking for there, or are unsure whether to travel please feel free to contact me on either of the phone numbers above.

## **Extra Sessions**

Our staffing levels are set at the beginning at the beginning of each term, and I have to maintain the required ratio levels for 2 year olds and children aged 3+ at all times. There is a little room for us to be flexible depending on the numbers we have in that day/to allow for new children joining us so, where we are able to, we are more than happy to accommodate any requests for one off extra sessions, or additional lunch clubs for your children – but we may just need a little time to check that we are able to do so!!

## 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 slippy, 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!

## PARENT ROTA:-

If you can spare a morning and would like to come in and help the children, please do let me know - the children love to see you, and hear you read a story to them, and there are always things for you to help us with! 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, 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 - both among the children and the staff. **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 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.



And finally:

We finish for half term on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February, and return on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 9:15 am.

Sharon Dorne and all the pre-school staff

### **Dates for your diary: Reminder**

5 <sup>th</sup> February:	Chinese New Year (the Year of the Pig)
6 <sup>th</sup> February:	Premier Sports
w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> March:	Parent Interviews – 2 year check
w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> March:	Dressing up week as a story character: bring a book
7 <sup>th</sup> March:	World Book Day
11 <sup>th</sup> March:	Parent Interviews – all other children
20 <sup>th</sup> March:	Premier Sports
21 <sup>st</sup> March:	Holi
29 <sup>th</sup> March:	Spring Service and Lunch: <b>all</b> children at pre-school for this session

### **Term Dates for the 2019/19 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	Friday 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 hope this will not be necessary