



NEWSLETTER 3

March 2019

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

Dear Friends

This term is now well underway – and what a lot has been happening! Please keep reading to the end to make sure you have all the latest information!!

Unfortunately, as you are now aware, we have had to re-advertise the position for a new member of staff – the advert is on the Bucks County Council website, and we have had some enquiries already, so hopefully we will find someone to join our team very soon. Thank you to you all for your volunteers of help and support, and thank you too to Elena who has returned to fill in our gap for the immediate future. I will let you know how we are getting along when I have some more news.

Fundraising: Easter Egg Hunt!!! Saturday March 30th, 9.30 – 11.30am!!

Please book the date in your diaries, and come along and have some fun doing an Easter Egg hunt, together with a few other activities! Come and have a drink and a hot cross bun too.

Thank you to Ali again for her organizing and brilliant ideas!

World Book Day: 7th March 2019 – Can you be a reading Star???????????



Attached is a token to put towards the cost of a new book, or to use to swap for one of the free books in the bookshops. We do lots of reading at pre-school, so will be sharing stories all week, and doing some of the activities that are available.

Also attached is a 'reading star activity sheet' for you to do at home with your children!!

Please let us know how you get on - bring your completed sheet back to pre-school and we have a reading star certificate ready and waiting for each child!

(If your child would like to bring in their favourite story to share, we'd love to read it 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!).

Spring Service and lunch - Friday 29th 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!!

Don't forget the children have Premier Sports coming in to run a football and dance session with the children later this month.

Thank you to those of you have given a voluntary contribution towards the cost of these sessions.

E-Safety!

This is a hot topic at the moment, and I know the children have taken on board the story that was read to them by Alison Watts, an e-safety adviser from Bucks County Council – they were singing the song she taught them when she visited before Christmas in their play last week!!

For those of you who were unable to make the parents evening we organized (and for those of you that did!) she has sent through a link that she thought you may find helpful:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-five-safe-online>

I hope you find this useful – please let me know if you do!

Bereavement

This is a difficult subject for us all – and especially so when you are aged 2 – 4, and you just don't understand why somebody, or a pet, isn't with you anymore. I have recently purchased some child friendly books, written for pre-school children, which we will be keeping in our book case. If you would like to borrow them to read with your children at home, to help to explain the loss of a loved one, then please do ask me. It might just help your child to talk, to explore their feelings, and to understand why this has happened.

Questionnaires: one for you, and one for your child!!

It's time for our annual questionnaire on our pre-school!!!

You will find two questionnaires attached to this sheet; one for you to complete, and the second for you to complete with your child. (If you have two children at pre-school please complete a questionnaire separately with each child, so they are not influenced by their sibling's thoughts!)

Please ask your child the question in language they will understand, and then let them colour in the appropriate smiley (or otherwise!) face, and write any comments they may make in the 'comments' boxes.

There will be a box available for you to post your completed forms in on the table by the parent notice board, so that you may remain anonymous if you wish.

We would like to hear your views, both positive or otherwise, as this helps us to know both what we are doing well, and how we can improve on the provision we offer. We constantly review the provision we provide, and your views are important to us. (Needless to say we do hope that, if you did have any issues, you would come and talk to either us or your parent representative so that we are able to resolve them quickly, before they become a major problem!).

Lunch Club: Tomatoes, Grapes etc.....

A request! Items such as tomatoes and grapes are choking hazards for children – please could you make sure they are chopped in half lengthways before they are put in your children's lunchboxes. Thank you!

New Intake Parent Meetings: 2 year Check (week commencing 4th 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. (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 11th 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 return your form to me as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so – Thank you!

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. 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!



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. And finally:



We finish for Easter on Friday April 5th, and return after the holidays on Wednesday April 24th.

Sharon Dorme and all the pre-school staff

Dates for your diary: Reminder

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

Term Dates for the 2019/19 Academic Year

Autumn Term 2018

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

Spring Term 2019

Pre-School opens Monday 7th January
Pre-School closes Friday 15th February
Pre-school opens Monday 25th February
Pre-School closes Friday 5th April

Summer Term 2019

Pre-School opens Wednesday 24th April
Pre-School closes Friday 24th May
Pre-school opens Monday 3rd June
Pre-School closes Friday 19th 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