



19th February 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the second half of the pre-school spring term, let's hope we will soon be enjoying some nice spring sunshine!

As usual we will be following the children's interest and leads, using our observations to inform our weekly planning. However, the spring time is a busy period and we feel it is important to include this in the curriculum. Therefore this term the children will also be learning about the Winter Olympics, World Book Day (1st March), Sport Relief (19th-22nd March) and a variety of 'Celebrations, Festivals and Traditions' including; Mothers Day, St. Patricks Day, Holi and Easter. If you have any ideas or any family traditions or customs concerning any festivals we would be delighted if you could share them with us, the children (and staff) are always interested to learn about these. For more details please see your child's Home/pre-school link book, the pre-school notice board or speak to a member of staff.

Fund Raising

The recent 'pick a date on the calendar' fundraiser was a great success, look out for the Fund-raising team's next newsletter for details of the amount raised and who won. At the moment the team are busy making gorgeous tote bags for mother's day and arranging a **rock 'n' roll bingo night for Friday 16th March**, look out for flyers in your child's bag and posters around the pre-school with more details. We would like to thank the committee members for their continued support and commitment to helping the pre-school raise much needed funds.

Obviously none of the events would be successful if it wasn't for the kindness and generosity of our parents, grandparents, relatives and friends. Whether you choose to come along to our events, make regular donations or provide us with cleaning products, printer paper, toilet rolls etc. we just want you to know that we really do appreciate all of your support.

The next committee meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Sunday 23rd February in the Pre-school**, please come along and lend your support.

ICT Questionnaires.

Sian would like to thank all those parents who took time to fill in and return the ICT Questionnaires that she sent out. She is currently using these to support her studies and to inform the pre-school of how our children access Information and Communication Technology outside of pre-school.

We have recently sent out some leaflets regarding online safety for you to use at home, you can find further information regarding this and many other subjects linked to keep children safe from abuse on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) website at: www.swindonlscb.org.uk

Photographer

Just to give you plenty of notice the pre-school's photographers, Terry & Sue Ferris, will be in the setting on **THURSDAY 26th APRIL 2018** (a.m. only). They will initially take a large group photograph of all the children leaving pre-school and going on to school this summer (I can't believe I'm saying that already!), so if your child does NOT usually attend pre-school on a Thursday morning but you would like them to be included in the group photo please bring them along by 9.10 a.m. After the group photo individual photos of all of the children can be taken. Please inform a member of staff prior to this date if you do NOT want your child photographed (please note that there is NO obligation to buy). Our younger children are welcome to come along and be photographed between 9.45 and 11.30 a.m. Siblings are welcome too.

Staff Development days – Advanced notice.

Pre-school will be closed on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th May 2018 so that staff can update their First Aid qualifications. We apologise for any disruption this may cause parents regarding childcare but First Aid training is an essential part of the EYFS framework, we have tagged these training days onto the front of half term to hopefully ease the disruption. We do have spaces available on this course for any childminders or other Early Years staff, please speak to me if you are interested or know someone else that is interested.

Collection of Children.

We have had a couple of instances this last term where we have opened the door to let the children go home and no-one has been there waiting. We would appreciate it if whoever is collecting your child could be waiting at the door for when we open it to let the children go. Thank you.

Parents Notice Board

If you get the chance please have a look at our parent's notice board in the pre-school foyer, it contains lots of useful information and advice plus our 'Parents Helper Rota' where parents who wish to do so can put their name down on a convenient date to help out during a pre-school session (we do apologise if these dates need to be changed/cancelled at short notice due to planned activities or visits from outside agencies). We have been lucky enough to have a few parents help out recently and we hope they have found it enjoyable and informative.

Please don't forget that we also have a **suggestions box** in the foyer and welcome any suggestions regarding: improving practice, working in partnership, procedures, equipment, the environment, fundraising etc.

Dates for your Diary

Fund Raising Committee meeting – **Sunday 23rd February**, 7.30 p.m. in the Pre-School.

World Book Day – **Thursday 1st March**, in honour of this day children can come in dressed as their favourite character from a book. If your child does not attend on a Thursday, they are welcome to come in dressed up on one of the days that they do attend.

Dates for your Diary (continued)

Rock 'n' Roll Bingo – **Friday 16th March** in the Community Centre, Towcester suite.

Sport Relief week – **Monday 19th March to Friday 23rd March.**

Easter Concert/Parade – **Tuesday 27th March** - 10.30 a.m. in the Community Centre, Towcester suite.

Yes, it's time to get those creative juices flowing! We will be holding an Easter Bonnet parade after the children have performed some spring songs for you all to enjoy. Everyone welcome. (More details to follow).

Photographer – **Thursday 26th April.** See details above.

Easter Holidays

Pre-school will close for the Easter holidays at 3.30 p.m. on **THURSDAY 29th March** and will re-open on **TUESDAY 17th APRIL** at 9.00 a.m.

(Monday 16th April – Introductory session for new children starting at pre-school only).

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Roberts