



3rd January 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back to pre-school after the Christmas break, I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. On behalf of the staff team I would like to say a big thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts we received at the end of term, it was very kind and very much appreciated.

The Christmas term is always busy with lots of events taking place and we really do appreciate the support given to the pre-school and the children during this hectic time.

I would like to thank everyone who came along to see the Christmas concert; the children did so well, they never cease to amaze us, to think most of them are only 3 years old!! We were very proud of them all. I would like to thank all the helpers at the concert who worked hard serving refreshments and organising the raffle, which raised an amazing £197.60. Please pass on our thanks to all the additional family members and friends that came and supported this event too. Thank you.

The Christmas party was very enjoyable and I would just like to say how well behaved the children were, they are a credit to you all.

New Starters

This term we are pleased to be welcoming 8 new children (and their families) to Coleview pre-school, we hope they all settle in soon and enjoy their time with us.

School Admissions

Children born between 1st Sept 2013 and 31st August 2014 will be due to start school in Sept 2018. Can I please remind you that school applications must be made by **15th January 2018**. Applications can be made online at: www.swindon.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces or for further information please call the admissions team on (01793) 445500.

Contact Details

It is of great importance that we can quickly and easily contact parents during pre-school sessions, particularly if a child is taken ill. We would therefore be grateful if you could update any contact details ASAP should the need arise e.g. new mobile for Christmas! If you would like to check the current contact details we have on record please speak to a member of staff. Thank you.

Safeguarding.

I have been advised to inform all parents of a recent initiative from the Police called ENCOMPASS. From September 2017 we will be informed by the Police of any Domestic Violence incidents that any of our children have been present at and/or witness to. This information will be passed to us securely and confidentially.

E-safety.

This Christmas many children will have received presents of toys containing sensors, microphones, data storage and other multi-media capabilities. These gadgets have the potential to put the privacy and safety of children at risk. The following online articles may be of interest to you, if you do not have access to the internet please speak to me and I will arrange to get you a copy.

1. The Information Commissioners Office has recently put together this article warning about the dangers associated with smart devices.

The 12 ways that Christmas shoppers can keep children and data safe when buying smart toys and devices (ICO)

<https://iconewsblog.org.uk/2017/11/23/the-12-ways-that-christmas-shoppers-can-keep-children-and-data-safe-when-buying-smart-toys-and-devices/>

2. Which? Magazine have produced a safety alert highlighting how easy it is for strangers to hack popular toys such as the Furby Connect, I-Que Intelligent Robot and Toy-fi Teddy.

Safety alert: see how easy it is for almost anyone to hack your child's connected toys

https://www.which.co.uk/news/2017/11/safety-alert-see-how-easy-it-is-for-almost-anyone-to-hack-your-childs-connected-toys/?mc_cid=a8356a5ff3&mc_eid=7fa3244e21

Suitable Clothing

As the weather has finally started to turn for the worse, please make sure that you supply your child with a warm, waterproof jacket and suitable boots or shoes, preferably with fastenings that they can learn to manage themselves. The door to the outside play area remains open for most of the day (as is required by our statutory framework) and all children will go outside at some point during the day. Please, please, please make sure that all clothing and belongings are labelled clearly with your child's name. As you can imagine making sure every child has the correct items when you have several all the same can be difficult, especially at this time of year with all the additional hats, scarves, gloves etc. If we can find a name it really does help. Any items that are not labelled and not claimed will be put in the lost property box in the pre-school foyer. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Parents Information Evening.

We will be holding an information evening for parents at some point this term (date to be decided), I will be sending out a letter shortly regarding this, please check your child's bag.

Home/Pre-school Link books.

These books belong to pre-school until your child leaves us and are a valuable part of your child's learning journey. Please ensure that your child's pre-school link book (pink or orange notebook) is present in your child's bag for every session they attend pre-school. Thank you.

Fund-Raising Committee News

After 6 years of being on our fund-raising committee, our Chairperson, Katie Higgins, has decided it is time to leave. As her own children are no longer at pre-school (her youngest left 2 years ago), I think you will agree that she has done more than her fair share for us. I would like to thank her for her enthusiasm, energy and commitment to us, she will be sorely missed.

This means that we have a vacancy for Chairperson on our committee. I cannot stress enough how important the committee is to our existence as a pre-school. We are a registered charity (Charity No.1035572) and although we are in receipt of funding from the Local Education Authority (from the term after a child's 3rd birthday and only for the sessions a child attends) this in no way covers all of our running costs. We therefore rely heavily on fund raising events, donations and fee payments to meet our additional costs, to purchase resources and equipment and to pay for the other events like the children's parties. We really do appreciate all the hard work that our Fund-Raising Team put in.

The date of the next committee meeting is **Sunday the 7th January, at 8pm in the Coleview Community Centre's members bar**, everyone is welcome and we are looking for some new members as we lost a lot of our members when their children went on to school last summer. Why not come along and see what you think, it is a good chance to be involved in your child's education and to make some new friends. We currently have 90 children on roll and of these we have 5 parents of children currently at pre-school on our fundraising committee, it would be great if more parents could join. Give it a go, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain!

A big thank you to Jodie Bishop who organised the Christmas bauble activity, which raised £213. The baubles were lovely and a real keepsake to look back on for years to come. Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported this event.

Our quiz night which was held on Friday 17th November 2017 raised a grand total of £656, and a great night was had by all who attended. Thank you to the committee for organizing another fun night out and to everyone who came.

Please check the notice board in the pre-school foyer and look out for flyers in your child's bag regarding forthcoming events and activities. Thank you.

Information is also available on 'FACEBOOK' please search: Coleview Pre-School Fundraising Group.

Half-Term

Pre-school will close on FRIDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2018 and re-open on MONDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Roberts