



8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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. Thank you for all your donations towards refreshments, the amount raised £218. Please pass on our thanks to all the additional family members and friends that came and supported this event too.

The Christmas party was very enjoyable, the children were so well behaved, they are a credit to you all.

We have a busy term ahead and will be covering the story of 'The Gingerbread Man' throughout the first half of this term alongside other themes including Valentines Day and Chinese New Year, please check in your child's orange pre-school link book for further details.

### New Starters

This term we are pleased to be welcoming 7 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 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 will be due to start school in Sept 2019. Can I please remind you that school applications must be made by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. Applications can be made online at: [www.swindon.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces](http://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.

### 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 Local Safeguarding Children's Board have lots of advice and information about keeping your child safe online, they also have links to further information. To look at this please visit their website at: [www.swindonlscb.org.uk](http://www.swindonlscb.org.uk) and look under the parents and carers tab for 'internet safety'.

### Suitable Clothing

This term is when we have our worst weather so 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 would like to hold a parents' information evening in the second half of this term. This would last for approximately one and half hours and would be a chance for us to share information with you regarding primarily Literacy and Phonics. Please return the attached slip so that we can gauge interest and what day and time of the week would suit most people best. I will send out further information once I have received these slips. Thank you.

### Sound of the week.

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January, we will be starting 'sound of the week' where we will have a small table with items beginning with the weekly sound and the children can bring in something from home that begins with that sound. The emphasis will be on 'Sound' rather than 'letter' and we will be using pure sounds (please speak to a member of staff if you are unsure of what this is); e.g. if the sound is 'ssssss' we would have objects such as 'snake', 'sock' and 'soap' rather than 'shoe' or 'sheeep'. Children can bring in as many items a week as they want but please only one item per session, and remember to mark items with your child's name or initials. We will be covering the sounds in the order of most frequent use rather than alphabetically as follows:

w/c 14/01/19 – 's', w/c 21/01/19 – 'a', w/c 28/01/19 – 't', w/c 04/02/19 – 'p' w/c 11/02/19 – 'i' & w/c 25/02/19 – 'n'

### 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 orange pre-school link book is present in your child's bag for every session they attend pre-school. Thank you.

## Fund-Raising Committee News

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

We are always looking for new members to join our committee as we lost a lot of our members when their children went on to school last summer. Why not come along to a meeting and see what you think, it is a good chance to be involved in your child's education and to make some new friends, 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 and plate activity, which raised £318. The baubles and plates were lovely keepsakes which you will have to look back on for years to come. Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported this event.

Please check the notice board in the pre-school entrance and look out for flyers in your child's bag regarding forthcoming meetings, 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 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 and re-open on MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Roberts

**PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING**

Name of child: .....

Name of parent/carer: .....

I \*would/would not be interested in attending an information meeting in March 2019.

Preferable evenings are: \*MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/FRIDAY

Preferable times are: \*6.30 - 8.00pm / 7.00 – 8.30pm / 7.30 – 9.00pm

*(\*delete as applicable)*

Subjects I would like information on are:

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