

# Huntingfield Pre-School

Summer Term June 2021

[www.huntingfieldpreschool.co.uk](http://www.huntingfieldpreschool.co.uk)

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## NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all finally enjoying the lovely Summer weather, long may it continue.....

We have a short, but busy half term ahead, so I would like to update you with what is going on in Pre-School.....

This half term we will be placing a strong emphasise on 'Transition' for the school leavers and celebrating Fathers day (20 June). Our weekly themes, rather than termly topics will continue and will be advised on my website.

### Transition (School Leavers)

Some of you have spoken to me as you are concerned that your children are behaving differently at the moment. Suddenly they don't want to come to pre-school or separate from you at drop off time. Some are more tearful or quieter than normal and some are misbehaving-more stubborn or moody. Don't panic! this is quiet normal in this last term, especially during a Pandemic! Most of the children are now ready to move on to Reception class, they know it's coming but are not sure when. It is a very unsettling time of year and they are feeling insecure. Normally this is just a short term problem-a little phase they are going through. Please don't worry, this happens every year and has now become expected!

After half term we will be focusing on moving on to 'Big School' in a caring & sensitive way, explaining that this is an exciting time in their lives and highlighting the good things about it. Having a uniform day, discussions, relevant stories, school role play scenario's, carrying lunch time trays, and possible teacher 's visits, all help to support transition.

I have contacted all the local schools to discuss all the children (have not all yet returned my call) and possible teachers visits. Unfortunately, due to the Pandemic it is unlikely that many teachers will visit and at the time of writing only Forestdale School have been in touch and subsequently visited (as mentioned in last week's email).

We will be having our usual **SCHOOL UNIFORM MORNING** on **MONDAY 12 July**. This is when all the children leaving us to move on to Primary School are encouraged to wear their new school uniform to pre-school, just for one morning. If you do not have all the uniform by then, just one item of clothing (particularly if it shows off the school colours) will be ok. I promise there will be no messy play that morning! If your child is not in on that morning and you would like them to be involved then please speak to me, I will always do my best to accommodate them!

### Coats, Sun Cream and Hats

During any hot weather, please can you remember to apply sun cream to your children before they come to pre-school and to bring a hat (I only have a small supply). The sun is very strong at this time of year and although most of our garden is shaded there are still a couple of small areas that aren't. Unfortunately for health and safety reasons we **DO NOT** apply cream to the children's skin.

### Birthday Books

The 'Birthday Book' continues to be very popular and is a great alternative to sweets. We have built up a significant amount of books over the last two years. For those who may not know what this is all about, we decided to replace Birthday sweets with Birthday books. We asked parents to donate a book to pre-school for their child's Birthday and to write a short note on the inside cover so we knew who the book was from. You don't have to spend lots of money, the book can be one you no longer read or from a charity shop, but if you wish to buy a new book, places like 'The Works' or 'The Book People' (online) sell cheaper books. We just thought this was a lovely idea, a great alternative to sugar!!

## **Bookstart**

The FREE Bookstart Treasure Bags provided by the Council and given to all children from the age of 3, will be given out over the next couple of weeks. This has been an annual event for many years and in the past the bag has included 2 books and a packet of pencils. With cut backs this year I am not sure if those items will still be included-we will see!!

## **Questionnaires**

Thank you to those of you who have returned your questionnaires. It seems that most of you are very happy with Huntingfield and feel we are providing a high standard of care and education for your little ones. Generally you feel that we have handled the Covid situation very well, are kept well informed, the settling in process worked well, opportunities and activities are varied, issues are dealt with promptly, and children are happy and well behaved. The only negative comment was that some of you feel that you are not kept up to date enough regarding your child's learning and development. Unfortunately due to Covid, the parent partnership has been more difficult this year and we have had to organise things differently. There is not the opportunity to speak to parents as often as we would normally do or to invite you in. However, I am keen to resolve this and I will be discussing this with the staff next week. Monthly/daily updates were suggested or photos attached to weekly emails. but as I hope you will appreciate to provide monthly/daily updates for 61 children would prove very difficult when we are only open for 3 hours each day. For the younger children our focus is not on the academics but the social development, as academics will be the focus when they are in Room 5. I would not attach photos to emails as I am aware of the security issues around photos online. However your children's folders are full of photos and these can be taken home at any time. You have requested longer opening hours, unfortunately this is not possible due to the premises being used by other users. Coffee mornings on different days-would be possible when we can ever get back to them indoors. I am however thinking about arranging an outside coffee morning before the end of term! I had a couple of different comments regarding the staff being called Auntie/Uncle, some of you like this and one doesn't. Huntingfield staff have always been addressed with this title, we feel it is much less informal at pre-school level and is preferable to Mr/Mrs.....A lot of interest was expressed around the Home Learning resources. These are activities that parents can borrow and include a range of approx. 10 different activities that support children's learning at home. Unfortunately, due to the Covid situation I temporarily withdrew this but I hope to restart it again next week. Please check outside the main entrance!

There were a couple of other questions that were raised and I have addressed these privately!

## **Increase in Mornings/Payments**

If any of you wish to increase your child's mornings in September then please email me. The fees will remain the same at £17 per morning and £5 for Lunch Club. As the extra curricular activities have restarted this term, I will be requesting payments of £30 (annual payment) to go towards the cost from September please.

## **End of Term Celebrations**

At the moment, I have not made a final decision regarding the end of term celebrations. With the possible easing of restrictions from 21 June I will wait for the Government guidance before I decide. It is possible we will have 2 parties over the last 2 days of term and a leaving ceremony for the school leavers on Friday 16th July. I will update you as soon as possible!

## **Finally**

Enjoy the rest of the lovely half term. We return on Monday 7 June.

**Elaine**

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