

# Huntingfield Pre-School



Summer Term May 2019

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

Tel 07936648864

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

This half term our topic is 'Saving the Planet' (if only!!). The children will be learning about climate change, habitat destruction, the importance of saving energy and water, reducing waste, increasing recycling and the effects of plastic and air pollution. We will also look at how paper is made. Please see the topic letter on my website for more information. By the time you read this newsletter, we would have enjoyed our visit from Zoolab, so watch out for the photos in the foyer soon....

The dates for all our other monthly activities up to the end of term are shown on the calendar on my website.

After half term, we will be placing a strong emphasise on 'Transition' for the school leavers and celebrating Fathers day (16 June).

### IMPORTANT

Unfortunately, Pre-School will be closed on Thursday 23 May as the hall is being used for voting in the European Elections. Sorry for the late notice!

### Primary Schools

You will have all now received your offers from your chosen Primary School. (and hopefully accepted or declined them) It appears that most of you are happy with the outcome, which is great news. This year we will be saying a sad 'Goodbye' to 31 children as they leave to move on to the following schools:-14 to, Forestdale, 7 to Courtwood, 2 to Greenvale, 2 to Selsdon Primary, 1 to Oak Lodge, 1 to St Johns, 1 to Pickhurst, 1 to Wickham Common, 1 to Krishna Avanti and 1 to Home Tutoring.

### Story Box Session

Our ever popular annual Story Box session will be on **Wednesday 5 June at 12.45**. This will be a chance for you to make a story box with your child, using a shoe box and craft materials. You will need to bring your own shoe box but craft materials will be provided. As this is a lunch time activity, I would suggest that you bring packed lunches for you and your child to eat here before the session, so please collect your child at the normal time of 12.15 and then go to Rooms 4 & 5 to eat your lunch. If your child does not attend pre-school on Wednesdays and they are taking part, please bring them in after their lunch at 12.40. The session will last for approx. 1 hour. The invitation is attached so if you are interested, please return this to me ASAP please. This is very important, as depending on how many of you wish to attend, determines the amount of resources I need to buy! **Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.** I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend as it's lots of fun! You will notice that I am making a small charge of £2 please to go towards the cost of the materials-payable when you return the slip (this can be taped to the return slip) **Please remember, you stay with your child to do this together.**

### Bookstart

Sheila Randall (Croydon Literacy Co-Ordinator) will be attending the Story Box session as she wishes to discuss the FREE Bookstart Treasure Bags that will be given to all children aged 3 already or who will be 3 before April 2020. She will be bringing these to the session and I will be giving them out shortly afterwards.

## Lunch Club

As the story box session (5 June) and new parent meeting (3 July) are being held on Wednesdays, the lunch clubs will run on the Tuesday that week instead. (i.e. 4 June & 2 July).

## Group Photographs

To remind you, the Pre-School **group** photos are being taken on Wednesday 22 May at 9.30 as detailed in my last newsletter in March.

## New Parent Visit

The afternoon visit for new parents and their children who will be starting at Huntingfield in September will be held on Wednesday 3 July at 1.15-2.15pm. The hall will be set up with toys and activities for the children to explore and all my staff will be available to discuss any concerns that the new families may have.

## 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 than normal-more stubborn or moody. Don't panic! this is quiet normal in this last term. 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. 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, relevant stories, school role play scenario's and teacher 's visits, help support transition. Please don't worry, this happens every year, it has now become expected!!

I will be contacting the local schools after half term to arrange the teachers visits. Unfortunately, schools do not have the resources to visit all the children and therefore they generally visit the schools where most of the children come from (i.e Forestdale and Courtwood) unless there is a child who I am concerned about. As soon as the dates are confirmed I will let you know.

We will be having our usual **SCHOOL UNIFORM MORNING** on Friday 5 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!

As with any of the visits or arrangements, 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!

## End of Term Party

Our **FANCY DRESS (optional)** end of term party will be on Friday 12 July, the last day of term. There will be an Entertainer and Party food. If your child normally attends pre-school on Friday then please bring them in at the normal time of 9.15 am. If they do **not** normally attend on Friday then please bring them in at 10.20am. We will be having party food at 10.20 and entertainment from 11.00 until 12.00. Parents/carers are welcome to come back early (from 11.50) as there will be an opportunity for photographs to be taken. It is likely that the morning will finish after 12.15 as we will be giving out leavers presents etc but please can everyone be here to collect their child from 12.00 at the latest (unless you wish to take photos as already mentioned) as the hall becomes very busy with parents invited in and it is difficult for us to keep a close eye on them all!!

## Check Pockets

Please can I ask you to make sure that your children don't bring in items from home to pre-school. Often items are hidden away in their pockets and these can be dangerous to little ones. Items such as coins, small toys etc and recently **monkey nuts!! We have children with severe nut allergies whereby even picking up a nut would cause a severe reaction. Your co-operation would be most appreciated please!**

## Topic Letters

I am no longer sending Topic Letters home. However, you can view it on my Website.

---

## Integrated Review

The recently introduced **Two Year Old Integrated Review** brings together the 2 year old progress check carried out by your child's key person and the old 2/3 year check that was originally carried out by your Health visitor at your GP's surgery. It is an opportunity for you, together with the key person and health visitor to look at your child's progress and strengths and to decide what may be needed to support their health, wellbeing, learning and behaviour. The review will be offered to all children before the age of 3 (approx. 33 months at Huntingfield) and it will be carried out at Huntingfield. (I arrange the appointment) Parents will be expected to accompany their child to the appointment and to bring the Red Book, as there are details we need to record. There is no charge for this service.

You do not have to agree to this service. I will invite you to take up the offer but you can choose to just have the pre-school progress check with your keyperson.

## 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.

Please can you all take extra care when taking, what you think is your child's coat/jacket/cardigan at home time. I have had several instances lately of families taking home the wrong clothes which is causing stress to other parents. Please check! **ALSO PLEASE, PLEASE NAME ALL CLOTHING!! THANK YOU**

## Birthday Treat Alternatives

As a pre-school, we are always trying to think of ideas to support and encourage Healthy Eating. As many of you know, children often come home with sweets that have been brought in by parents to celebrate their child's Birthday. It has been suggested that instead of sweets, a book is donated instead? We would gradually build up a library of 'Birthday Books' and these would be available in the foyer for you to borrow and read at home with your children. 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!!

## DVD

This coming half term, Mr Oyedele (who filmed the Xmas nativity) is filming the children at play in various situations, including a normal morning at pre-school and our various activities such as Zoolab/Phonic Stars/Mad Academy/Musical Bumps etc. etc. This is a lovely opportunity for you to see what your children actually get up to and enjoy doing at Huntingfield. The DVD will be for sale shortly before we break up in July. It's a must!!

## Important Dates for your Diary

There is lots going on at pre-school between now and the end of term on 12 July, so please check the calendar on my website (address on front of this newsletter) and on my weekly planning sheet on the parent notice board. But just to remind you-

**WEDNESDAY 22 MAY-GROUP PHOTOS**

**MONDAY 3 JUNE-RETURN AFTER HALF TERM**

**WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE-STORY BOX SESSION**

**WEDNESDAY 3 JULY-NEW PARENT AFTERNOON**

**FRIDAY 5 JULY-SCHOOL UNIFORM MORNING**

**FRIDAY 12 JULY-END OF TERM PARTY/BREAK UP FOR SUMMER -**

**ALL OTHER REGULAR ACTIVITIES ARE ON MY WEBSITE CALENDER**

## Finally

We break up on Friday 24 May and return on Monday 3 June.

**Elaine**

---