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Newsletter November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now half way through term one and I think the children have settled in really well, the new routine in Pre-School is working really well and we are seeing the children flourish in their new environment.

Tina mead from the local authority who is working with us until our grade rises has given some extremely positive feedback, is happy with all the new changes and quoted as she left the other day how it is "so nice to see such happy, contented and engaged children" so it means all our hard work is paying off. I do want to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for working with me and making our first term so enjoyable. I am fully aware of how difficult change can be and how adapting to a new routine can be somewhat unsettling for many but I feel this has gone as smoothly as possible and for this I am extremely thankful to you all.

I have some exciting news - we have a new member of staff starting with us in December. Kerry is level 3 trained and has been in childcare for over 7 years, she has two young children herself one of which used to attend Pre-School and we are very much looking forward to welcoming her to the team. With this in mind, come January, your child's key worker may change as I will be handing some of my key children over to Kerry, Helen and Claire so I can concentrate on behind the scenes office work which has taken a back seat of late.

Please can I remind all parents that if you still have your child's registration form at home please could you fill it in and pop it back to us as quickly as possible. I still have some to hand out so don't panic if you haven't received yours yet.

Pre-School have been very busy making their special Christmas cards and these will be handed out with their order forms for parents to order their pack. Please could we have the order forms back as quickly as you can to avoid any delay in getting them in time for Christmas.

Entrance hall

On our busy days I am aware the hallway is getting a bit crowded of a morning. If I could ask all parents to try and not gather in the hallway and to place their child's slippers on as quickly as possible and to move into the main room to avoid any traffic jams. When exiting of a morning can I now ask parents to walk around and exit out of the quiet room door to again avoid any jams. Thank you.

This next coming week you will be receiving an information booklet on your child. This is for you to read through and see just how well your child is settling into Pre-School and how much fun they are having. We welcome any parent feedback on these and would love to see the parent's comments filled in when you hand them back in to your child's key person.

Just a quick reminder, the weather has crept up on us and is now getting extremely cold. Please can we ask for all children to provide NAMED wellies, hats, scarves, gloves and waterproofs as we do go outside everyday. Can we also ask if your child has come home in any Pre-School clothing please can we have it back as our stocks are running very low.

Staff Training

Helen and Ellie have both recently completed their child protection training so are now Pre-School's designated child protection officers. Claire and Julie also attended their basic child protection and Helen and Julie also attended their paediatric first aid. All staff members are now paediatric first aid and child protection trained. Over the coming months the staff are all going on various training courses to keep up to date with all the changes in the EYFS and to extend their knowledge. You may see a new face from time to time, this will be an agency member of staff from a company called Headline which enables us to keep up our ratios whilst being able to complete these training courses. All agency staff go through vigorous checks with the agency as well as having full and enhanced DBS checks.

PE

We have had our first few PE sessions at Pre-School and if I may say they are going great! The children really engage in this. Ben is great with them and really engages their interests whilst keeping them active. This is taking place on a Monday and Friday morning so if I can just remind all parents to put their children in suitable footwear on these days such as trainers.

We continue to try lots of different messy play with the children which enables and supports their sensory development as well as their development in mathematical skills and their scientific lines of enquiry. With this in mind please do not dress your children in special clothes, as much as we try or hardest to ensure all children wear aprons during these activities the mess can still manage to creep through.

Children In Need

To support Children In Need this year, on Thursday 17th Nov we are inviting all the children who attend on that day to dress in spots or have wacky hair and bring a contribution with them. Cakes that the children have decorated will be sold after Pre-School so please bring your money with you at collection.

Photographer

Please remember the photographer is coming on Friday 18th Nov to take individual photos of your children. He will be arriving at 9am and photographing the Pre-School children who attend on that day first. If your child does not attend on a Friday but you would like them to have their picture taken you are more than welcome to come along but can we ask for you to arrive at 10am and wait accordingly for when a slot becomes available (this shouldn't take long depending on the amount of children and parents that turn up). Siblings welcome.

Once again many thanks for all your support and kind comments.

Ellie

