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## Newsletter May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, please let me apologise for the lack of newsletters over the recent term, this is something that has taken somewhat of a backseat due to myself being in numbers more regularly. I will now be aiming to do a half termly newsletter to keep you informed of any changes within Pre-School.

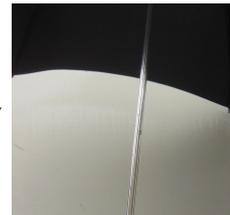
As you all may know we had a very welcomed visit from OFSTED last Wednesday and I can now officially say that we now stand as a GOOD setting. Myself and the staff have worked tremendously hard since September working on the previous recommendations and making changes within Pre-School to make the environment more suitable to all the children's needs. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and sticking with us through all the changes. I am fully aware of how difficult change can be especially within such a close community and getting to know a whole new team but I hope now you can see the changes that have been implemented have paid off and the learning environment within Pre-School now shines.

The report will not be published to OFSTED's website for another 2-3 weeks but we do have 2 copies placed next to the register if anyone should want to read them upon collection.

### Staff Updates

#### **This is Pam.**

Pam is Pre-Schools new deputy manager and works on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Pam holds a level 4 qualification in early years and has completed a degree in childhood and youth studies. Pam currently doesn't have any key children but is being a one to one, this will change come September and you will be informed if your child's key person has changed.



Many of us have attended various courses over the last term to help us keep up to date with the changes happening within early years as well as continuing our learning.

These are as follows:

- Identifying children with emerging needs
- Delivering the early years foundation stage prime areas
- Every child a talker
- Safety matters
- Basic child protection
- Paediatric first aid
- British values
- Using visual approaches
- Leadership briefings
- English as additional language in more depth
- ENCo – equalities named co-ordinator
- Safeguarding conference
- Early year's conference

I continuously monitor the staff and work with them on areas of development and we as a Pre-School are very eager to continue with all training opportunities to bring up the level of teaching and experiences for the children.

### **Dates for the diary**

**25<sup>th</sup> May** is photo day; Horizon will be coming in to do individual photos of the children. If your child does not attend on this day but you would like them to be pictured please bring them in at 10am. Horizons will be bringing in graduation gowns for the children that will be leaving us for school.

**7<sup>th</sup> June** we have Andy the police officer coming into Pre-school to talk with the children about what being in the police force is all about, he may also be bringing his police car for the children to explore.

**On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> June** we will be holding a Fun day on the Pre-School grounds. This will be from 10am-2pm at Pre-School. There will be a BBQ, bouncy castle, face painting, tombola and various other activities and games on offer. This will be a lovely day to be able to talk with the staff and to have a look at all the various displays and children's work around Pre-school as well as being a fun day out for the family. Don't forget to bring your pennies **J**

**19<sup>th</sup> June** we will be holding a Father's Day morning in Pre-School, we will be inviting children and their daddies to come in and join in with some activities. Please watch out for the email with more information coming soon.

**11<sup>th</sup> July** Parents evening. Pre-school will be opening their doors from 7.00pm to 8.30pm for parents to come in and chat with their child's key person and look through their child's folder's. All the children that are leaving to go to school will be handed their final learning summary to go through with the key person and answer any questions before they start their new venture, this is when they will also be handed their children's folder to take home for keeping.

**21<sup>st</sup> July** Pre-school leavers party. Please note Pre-School is not open on this day. We will be inviting the children who are leaving to go to school in September in on this day from 10.30am – 1pm to join in with a little leaving party and entertainment. Again, please watch out for more communication on this in the coming weeks.

### **Mobile Phones**

Please can I remind parents that Pre-School is a **mobile phone free zone** - we ask for all mobiles to be stored away when dropping off or collecting your children. If you need to take an urgent call please step outside of the building to answer. Staff will be very vigilant with this and will be reminding you of the policy if parents are seen with their phones on show. Staff mobiles are locked away in the office at the start of their shift and are not collected until the end of their shift.

### **Absences**

Please could I remind all parents/carers to please phone Pre-School if your child will not be attending their usual session. This is something that has recently become quite common and we are now looking at bringing in a courtesy call policy for any unknown absences. This is due to new safeguarding regulations and processes.

### **Let's explore project**

A huge thank you to all the children and parents for taking part in our Let's explore project over Easter, I was overwhelmed by the amount of projects we had back and it was lovely to see all of the children's hard work and effort. The children loved sharing their experiences with each other and as the projects now form a large display it has been a hot topic of conversation with the children looking at and discussing each other's experiences.

### **Parental involvement**

Here at Pre-School we are very eager to have as much parental involvement as possible. We would love for any of you to come in and discuss your place of work, religion, hobby or interests with the children to broaden their knowledge of their own communities and others beyond their own experiences. Please speak with Ellie if you would like to arrange to come in.

### **Reminders**

Please can I remind parents to exit Pre-School in the mornings via the quiet room.

As the sun is now gracing us with its presence a bit more lately can I please ask that parents start to bring in named sun hats for their children ideally to be left at Pre-School so we can have a sunhat box that is bought out for each session. Also, can I please ask if you have not responded to the email regarding sun cream could you please do so, we can then be sure of who our Pre-School cream can be applied to. Slippers – the slipper bag system is working well and the hallway seems to be less congested, if we can all carry on with this it would be great to see. More bags have been ordered and should be with us shortly.

Pre-school uniform, sweatshirts, cardigans and t-shirts can now be purchased for your children with the Pre-School logo. Please contact Rebecca for more information.

Pre-School have their own facebook page for current parents only. The page is called Fenstanton Pre-School parents and carers group, please feel free to request to join the group where you can keep up to date with any changes or upcoming dates as well as having a sneaky look as to what the children have been up to during their day. This is a very secure closed page in which only **CURRENT** parents can view, when your child leaves Pre-School you will be taken off the group by the pages admin.

### **Star of the week**

After half term, Pre-School will be starting up a star of the week programme. This to help build self-esteem and confidence. Each week 2 children will be picked to be the star of the week, they will get to wear special badges, be the front of the line, be the Pre-School helper and just generally be the star of the show. We will be encouraging parents/carers/grandparents etc to come in on the week of their child's star week to either discuss something of interest, read a story or show off a particular skill with the children. You will be notified by a member of staff when it will be your child's week.

### **School**

I had the great pleasure of meeting with Mrs Worth the new head teacher of Fenstanton & Hilton School. Both her and myself are very eager to build up the relationship between Pre-School and School and will be working very closely together to ensure this happens. I will be spending a morning over at school with Mrs Worth as she shows me the workings of the school and the possibility of sharing various experiences and resources together. We very much look forward to all the new exciting opportunities that may arise.

Ellie Smyth-Parker

**Pre-School Manager**



