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Newsletter September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

WELCOME BACK!!!! We hope you all had a lovely summer break and enjoyed the nicer weather while it lasted.

Now that summer is over and the colder weather approaches please can I take this opportunity to ask parents to make sure they are providing their children with appropriate clothing. I do understand how the weather can always be unpredictable and what might start as miserable wet morning may blossom into a nice warm afternoon so please ensure your child has a variety of named clothing for all weathers in their bag and the Pre-school staff can change them appropriately.

We have lots of new families joining us this term and it is lovely to welcome so many new faces into the Pre-School.

Staff Updates

Unfortunately Pam will be leaving us mid October just before half term. She has been a wonderful asset to the team but she has taken the decision to go traveling in New Zealand. We wish her all the best for her adventure. We are now currently recruiting for a new deputy and parents will be kept informed during the whole process.

I have been busy booking in lots of new courses for the staff to attend as the new academic year has started. This is to ensure the staff are continuously building on their knowledge and bringing new visions back into Pre-School.

You may have noticed that staff have changed their working days this year due to our numbers being lower, the staff new days of work are as follows.

Ellie – Monday to Friday
Pam – Wednesday to Friday
Claire – Wednesday to Friday
Helen – Monday, Tuesday and Friday
Kerry – Monday and Thursday
Julie – Tuesday and Wednesday

Due to having to reduce hours and changing working days your child's key person may have changed, the staff will be handing out slips informing you of who your child's keyworker is. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Dates for the diary

Monday the 2nd October 2017 we will be inviting all grandparents into Pre-school to take part in some

activities to celebrate National Grandparents Day. More information to follow.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is an integral part of our day at Pre-school, please take time to read the safeguarding reminders below.

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 bringing in a courtesy call policy for any unknown absences, this will be emailed to all parents for your information. This is due to new safeguarding regulations and processes.

Existing accident forms

Please can I ask all parents to speak to a member of staff if your child comes in with any bumps or marks that have happened at home, the staff member can then hand you an existing injury form for you to fill out, this to not only safeguard the children in our care but to also safeguard the staff.

Reminders

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.

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

Slippers – the slipper bag system is working well and the hallway seems to be less congested, it would be nice to see this carry on when the numbers pick up so can I please remind parents that slippers are to be taken into the room and placed on rather than in the hallway.

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

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.

PE with Ben will be starting up again next week, however due to low numbers will only be taking part in PE once a week. The day for PE will now be a Wednesday morning 10-11 and I have secured the School hall for this session each week and will now be asking for a small PE kit of shorts and t-shirts to be provided by parents and left at Pre-school. This is to help aid school readiness and independence in dressing skills.

Home learning links

Attached with the newsletter you will see other letters asking for some home engagement, please take the time to read these and we hope to see as many children as possible taking part.

Ellie Smyth-Parker
Pre-School Manager

