

September 2013

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back everyone! With a special welcome to our new starters: Abi, Cherry, Emma and Jack.

We hope you all had a lovely summer and are raring to go again.

Our topic this half term is colours, patterns and shapes.

We will be mainly focusing on settling the children back in to the routines and also settling our new children in for the first few weeks, observing their interests, ideas and development.

We will be familiarizing everyone with our pre-school rules and also covering stranger danger, in very basic terms, reinforcing that children should not go with a person they do not know. If you would like a copy of the pre-school rules please ask a member of staff.

Below is a brief overview of some of the things we have planned in Pre-school.

Week 1 and 2

Settling in - Settling the children back and familiarizing them with our routines and Pre-school rules. Activities will be planned to support their social development and encouraging their independence. We will also be working closely with the children to see where they are developmentally and how we can support their next steps in learning.

Week 3 onwards

We will be doing lots of work on colour recognition, mixing, matching and sorting. We will look at lots of different shapes and how they are used in the environment and we will be linking both of these to pattern work later in the term. We will be working a lot with Elmer the Elephant books, if you have any of these at home or a DVD of Elmer stories it would be great if we could borrow them. As usual we will be asking children to bring in items to help relate to our topic, so please be prepared to be looking for items of a certain colour or shape.



In addition to our topic, we will also be looking at your child's interests and likes and we will use these in our weekly planning. You can see this in more detail in the little room.

Snack Contribution



Following on from the AGM, where it was agreed that parents would prefer Pre-school to provide the children with a healthy snack each morning and parents would pay a daily amount, we can now confirm we will trial this for this half term. (At the end of the half term we will ask you all how you wish to continue with providing snack and we will go with the majority).

The charge per morning will be: 40p.

Please could we ask that you pay your snack contribution when you bring your child into Pre-school. This can be daily or weekly.

We would still very much welcome any homemade cakes, scones and biscuits!

School Lunches

Pre-school children are welcome to stay for lunch. The cost for lunch is £2.00 per day and this MUST be paid either in advance or on the day your child is staying. Children staying for lunch must be picked up by 12.45 pm prompt.

Head Lice

It has been brought to our attention that we have a case of head lice in Pre-school. Please can you check your child's hair and treat if necessary.

Learning from Home

Our Learning at Home initiative will commence again in September. Now please don't panic..... these activities will be fun for both you and your child and will only take about 10 minutes. An idea of what this will include: play dough, jigsaws, number recognition and Olly the Bear.

Outdoor Clothing/Indoor Shoes

We spend lots of time outdoors so can you please ensure your child has appropriate clothing e.g. wellies, coat/waterproofs, sunhats and cream for the hot weather (if we get any more). We would also ask that your child has a pair of indoor only shoes. Footwear can get rather wet/dirty after we've been having fun outside and it would really help if they had some indoor shoes to change into – these could be plimsolls, crocs or slippers etc.



Complaints Procedure

We have a Complaints Policy for parents to follow in our Wraparound policies which are displayed on the notice board. We also display OFSTED contact details for parents who have any queries or issues regarding early years.

Sick Children

If your child is ill and will not be attending Pre-school we would be really grateful if you could ring, email or text us to let us know. If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea please allow 48 hours before they are brought back to Pre-school. If they have any infectious illnesses such as chicken pox could you please let us know so we can alert other parents.

If your child takes poorly during Pre-school staff will judge whether they need to be taken home and will inform parents in the first instance. Please be aware that we cannot administer Calpol etc, only medication prescribed by a doctor and with a full medical form filled out by the parent/carer beforehand.

Parent Helpers



We always welcome any parent/carer wanting to help in Pre-school, it could be to read a story, sing some songs, anything you like! Please see a member of staff if you are interested and can spare the time. If you would like to be a regular helper in Pre-school, you will need to have a DBS (CRB) check. This is part of our Safeguarding Policy for adults who come into contact with children on a regular basis and is a statutory requirement. If you need more details please see a member of staff.

Change of Details

If your details have changed recently e.g. email/mobile phone number, can you please let a member of our staff know so we can update our records.

Sending newsletters via email helps us reduce printer ink cost as well as saving paper etc. We will still have a copy of newsletters etc on the Wraparound notice board but if you prefer a hard copy or have problems accessing the files please let me know.

Yogabugs

Each Wednesday, for this half term, will we be joining class 1 for a Yogabugs session with Debbie Macallister. Yoga benefits our children by helping their listening and concentration skills. It also help to promote flexibility and keeping active.



Stay 'n' Play

This will continue to run every Tuesday and Thursday is led by Sharon Birdsall.

Pre-School Sessions

Our session begins at 8:45 am and finish at 11:45 am. Please can you ensure you drop off and pick your child up promptly at these times, if by any reason you are late in picking your child up, please let us know by calling the pre- school mobile. If parents are continuously late in picking their child up we will have to consider charging for this to cover staff wages.

Fundraising for Wraparound - Great North Run – Nanette Robson

Sunday 15 September, Nanette Robson, Wraparound Committee Secretary and Treasurer, will be completing her 4th Great North Run in aid of Wraparound. If you would like to sponsor Nanette please see a member of staff. Good luck Nanette we will all be cheering you on!

Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 19 September – Tag Rugby starts in Afterschool
- Saturday 21 September – School Autumn Fair
- Friday 20 September – NO Pre-school lunch – children must be collected at 11:45 am please.
- Friday 27 September – NO Pre-school lunch – children must be collected at 11:45 am please.
- Monday 16 December – NO Pre-school lunch – children must be collected at 11:45 am please.

If you have any queries on any of the above, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Johanne, Ailsa, Sharon, Jayne & Caroline