



## Newsletter - Term 5 - 2019

Dear Parents,

The children have been playing outside a lot more recently, as the weather begins to look and feel a lot more like Spring! They have been making their own bird feeders and we have all enjoyed seeing an increase in birds to our garden! The children have also been making their own wonderful bug hotels to take home and we have a large hotel that sleeps many, many bugs of all shapes and sizes, that resides in the front Pre-school garden! The children have enjoyed finding new residents for it from around the garden.

Lots of children have enjoyed dressing up and playing at being Pirates lately; drawing treasure maps and going on adventures to find the spot marked by the 'x'! This provided lots of opportunities for mark-making and writing for a purpose. It also led onto talking about different types of boats such as sail, paddle etc. and the children talked about their experiences of travelling by boat, we even learned about how radar works and why they use it.

The children have also been very busy making salt dough food to sell in their 'Cafe'! They have also enjoyed making Spotted Dog Scones and taking them home to their family.



### Dates for your diary:

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Disco 3-4pm Village Hall

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Start of Term 5

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Term 5 Ends

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Term 6 Starts

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Photographer Visit – a.m.

### Contact Us:

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We enjoyed welcoming parents to our Induction Evening earlier this month, in preparation for their children joining us after Easter.

In preparation for Mother's Day the children were learning songs, planting Sweet Peas and writing about what they love about their Mummy's. We then welcomed lots of Mummy's to Pre-school for a special Mother's Day Stay & Play morning. We hope you enjoyed your time here and were pleased with your little Sweet Peas!

In the last week of term, we had the pleasure of taking the children to visit the Church. The Vicar, Paul Eddy, told the Easter story and explained the significance of giving Easter eggs. The children sat at the front of the church and as Paul talked he pointed out the story depicted in the beautiful stained-glass windows. They also got to ask questions and enjoy a little chocolate egg!

We had some fantastic comments from the children "Jesus tells Santa to give us presents at Christmas" amongst others!

Jude has undertaken some very exciting Woodwork training for Early Years with Pete Moorhouse a leading authority in Woodwork in the Early Years. She has been busy training other staff and we are hoping to be rolling this out in the new term! We will provide more information on this after Easter including dates of when we will be presenting this to parents and explaining the huge benefits that it brings to the children.

<https://irresistible-learning.co.uk/>

<https://irresistible-learning.co.uk/resource/woodwork-book-pete-moorhouse-published-community-playthings/>

There is now a copy of our updated Privacy Notice for Parents on our website.

<http://stanfordpreschool.org.uk/documents/Privacy%20Notice%20Parents.pdf>

### **Upcoming events**

Don't forget our Easter Disco on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April from 3-5pm! Many thanks to all those people who have donated chocolate and Easter eggs for our raffle.

We are very pleased to welcome Lisa from Love Kids Photography back again this Summer to take our Leaver's group photo and the individual children's photographs. This will take place first thing on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Lisa will take the group photo first and then photograph those children who aren't due in session that morning before doing the rest. Please make a note of this date.

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

### **Reminders**

On 18<sup>th</sup> April parents will be informed about their child's School place by Oxfordshire County Council. When you do have confirmation, could you please let us know which school your child has been allocated a place.

Thank you very much to those of you who have already completed our Breakfast & After School Club Survey. If you are yet to complete this can we ask that you do this before we return after Easter. It is a very quick survey and the results from it will help us determine whether these additional opening times are something we should be offering.

A polite reminder, could we please ask parents to ensure they always treat our staff with the respect they deserve; we are, after all, role models for the children around us. If there is ever an issue that you feel you need to resolve, you can always speak to Nina.

We seem to be quite short of cooking money for this term. Please can I ask that all parents please bring in their £1 donation towards the cooking ingredients. I'm sure you all agree that the children all really enjoy cooking at Pre-school and we would love this to continue.

If this wonderful weather continues we will need to start thinking about ensuring the children are wearing hats and sun cream in the garden after we return after Easter. The Pre-school will now be providing the sun cream, but please can we ask for a £2 per child donation to cover the cost. Please ensure that your child comes to Pre-school with a sun hat to wear in the garden.

### Easyfundraising

We need your help! If you shop online, please could you sign up to easyfundraising to support Stanford in the Vale Pre-school. It's a really easy way to raise money for us - you just use the easyfundraising site to shop online with more than 3,500 well known online stores like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S and when you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you! We want to raise as much as possible, so please visit our easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stanfordpresch/and> click 'support us'. Thank you!

The Parent Portal is now open all the time, so you can view your child's Learning Journey file whenever you like. It really is a wonderful resource and great opportunity to help you see and understand what your child is learning and enjoying at Pre-School, and how they develop through the activities they participate in.

We are running extremely low on our borrowed Pre-school clothes so if you have any at home, could you please return them to us as soon as possible. Also, we have run out of plastic bags to put wet clothes in to send home. It would be really helpful if each child could have a plastic bag in their bag each day for us to put their wet clothes in.

Please could parents please let us know if their child will not be coming into Pre-School for any reason. We record reasons for absence and will phone if your child has not come in and we have not received any communication from you. This is an Ofsted requirement and one that will continue when they reach school. The Pre-School number and my e-mail is on the top of the newsletter if you don't have it already.

We encourage you to bring your child to Pre-school on time so that we can start the session without interruption. This is also good practice for when you move up to School. We thank you for your understanding.

Please continue bringing in junk modelling materials, the children love making some fantastic items and structures out of them.

Can I please remind parents that the only drink that should be in children's water bottles that they have free access to is water. They can have juice etc. with their packed lunch. At Primary School, they will only be allowed to have water and so it is good for them to get used to this. Also, there is convincing evidence that drinking only water or milk between meals helps to prevent tooth decay.