



Newsletter - Term 2 – 2021/22

Dear Parents,

We have had an exciting term with the children really enjoying the build up to Christmas. They have spent long periods of time in the Elf Workshop dressing up, wrapping presents, writing letters to Santa and writing labels for presents. They also enjoyed making their own salt dough decorations to take home and selected a variety of resources to make their own Christmas cards.

They have enjoyed learning the Christmas songs and I'm sure you will agree they did a great job of performing them to you all the church. We were so delighted to see how much they all enjoyed it and had no tears at all when Santa arrived to give out the presents.

Earlier on in the term we enjoyed the surprise arrival of snow which has endless learning opportunities but also is a huge amount of fun. We ventured out to the park to play in the untouched snow and had such fun.



The children have also enjoyed using the woodwork bench. Spending time selecting resources to hammer onto their block of wood. They have carefully listened to instructions about wearing the safety goggles and using the tools safely.

All of these activities are funded by parents paying their termly Voluntary Consumables Fee. Thank you.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 17th Dec @12 – Term 2 ends
Wednesday 5th January – Term 3 starts

Contact us:-

Telephone: 01367 718696

www.stanfordpreschool.org.uk

chair@stanfordpreschool.org.uk

manager@stanfordpreschool.org.uk

administrator@stanfordpreschool.org.uk

treasurer@stanfordpreschool.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stanfordinthevalepreschool>

Our closed Facebook group for current parents:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3201739746504507>

Committee

Thank you to everyone who sent in items for the hampers and for the committee members who put them together and asked local companies for raffle prizes. We raised £129 in total. The lucky winners have been informed and have collected their prizes. Fundraising is vital to the Pre-school and this money is very welcome in what has been another difficult year for fundraising.

Another huge thank you to Claire, Flo's mum, who raffled off one of her amazing cakes and raised £100. We received a good amount of orders for both the Christmas cards and Photographs. We received £18 in commission from the Christmas cards and £45.90 in commission from the photos.

Covid - 19

With an increase in Covid cases locally please can we ask you to continue to be vigilant next term. The new rules are that if you are fully vaccinated or a child between 5-18 who is identified as a close contact you are required to do a LFT daily for 7 days and report your result. We are still asking that if you have a case of Covid in your household that your child has a negative PCR test before returning. We have updated our Risk Assessment to reflect these changes, and this has been sent to parents.

Book Library

It is really great to see so many children using the book library. Reading with your children is one of the most important things you can do with your child. The children love choosing a book to take home and share with you. We have collected these back in for the end of term and will re-issue in the new year.

School admissions

The portal to apply for a school place for September 2022 opens on the 2nd November and closes on the 15th January 2022. If your child's birthday is between 1/9/2017 and 31/8/2018 they are eligible to go to school in September 2022.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications>

Please do let us know if you need any help or advice on applying.

Focus Child

Now the new children are settled, we will reintroduce the Focus Child this term as part of our In the Moment Planning. Each child who is starting primary school in September 2022 will be a focus child each term (5 times this year). Those children who are with us for a further year will be a focus child each full term (3 times this year). Nina will email each parent a form for you to fill in just to give us a little background to what your child has been doing recently and any areas they may have a particular interest in. There will also be lots of group observations that your child will be involved in, these will be shown on the Class Dojo.

50 things app

Oxfordshire have launched a new app called 50 things to do before you're Five. It's full of free or low-cost ideas to do with your children.

<https://oxfordshire.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!50thingstodobefore5/welcome>

Staffing

I'm delighted to say that Kate has now returned from being away. Kelly is now working a couple of sessions a week and also as Bank staff when we need her. The children are really enjoying getting to know her.

Behaviour tip of the term

Do you ever find it frustrating that your child does not listen to you, or do as you have asked them the first time? Just remember that most children need at least 10 seconds to process an instruction and then react. Make sure you give them this time. If you need to repeat after 10 seconds make sure you use the same phrasing (words) otherwise children will have further information to process. Also, make sure you are down at their level and have eye contact and use simple language. The rule goes if the instruction has an 'and' in it it is too long. This is not the same for all children but something to bear in mind.

We would love to hear how you get on.

General Information

As the weather gets colder, please make sure your child has a warm/waterproof coat, gloves and hat. If they haven't got one already it is worth investing in an all-in-one waterproof suit for Pre-school. The children go out in all weathers, and we want them to be warm and dry.

Please can we ask you to ensure your children have plenty of spare clothes (at least 3 sets) in their bags please, especially socks!! Please, please can you name your children's clothes. As you can appreciate trying to keep 20 + children's belongings together can be quite a challenge and it is so much easier if they are labelled even if it is just their initials.

I am sharing a useful flyer regarding ways to avoid choking incidents in young children. Please can parents make sure that foods sent in with children are cut to avoid chances of choking. The most important thing you can do is to supervise your children every time they eat. Making sure they are sat down, ideally at a table in a chair and finish each mouthful before adding any more.

Avoid round food -

cut grapes cherry tomatoes cherries etc in half lengthways and ideally in quarters. If you get the fruit bags with grapes when out ask for a.pdf

The children love 3d modelling. Please send in your clean, boxes, tubes etc. for us to add to the creative area. No toilet rolls though thank you.

Please ensure you send a piece of fruit in each day for your child. We don't have any spare fruit and we don't want children to miss out.

We have a wonderful local resource called The Mix in Wantage. One of its main roles is to distribute surplus food to the local community. I know with the price of utilities and food going up people are having to tighten their belts. The website gives information about their opening hours and also their Facebook page is very useful regarding how much food they have to give away. In addition to the food distribution, they run some great courses, have a repair café and a refill place for detergent etc. Here is the website:

https://sustainablewantage.org.uk/?page_id=24

A couple of staff recently updated their Paediatric First Aid training with an excellent local trainer. I asked the trainer if she ran any sessions for parents as I thought many parents may find these really helpful and informative. She said that she had run them previously and would be happy to come along and run a session one evening for us. The cost would be about £20 per person with £5 going to the Pre-school. If any parents are keen

but would struggle to finance this, please just speak to me and I'm sure we could sort something out. The course content would be things such as the unconscious child, CPR, choking, head injuries and then she would open it up to the group to cover whatever they would like. We are thinking of a date in late January/Early Feb. Please let me know if you would be interested in attending.

Please do remember that we have a child with a nut allergy so please ensure you don't send any nuts into Pre-school in your child's lunch box/snack. This includes items such as Nutella and chocolate spread.

Facebook

We have a closed Facebook group for the current cohort of parents. Just search Stanford Pre-school Parents on Facebook. A daffodil photo is the profile picture. As it is a closed group you will have to wait for admin to approve you before you can post or comment.

Easyfundraising

We rely heavily on fundraising and one way of us making money is through easyfundraising and Amazon Smile. With more people shopping online in the current Covid situation 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/?pageVersion=1&cat=cause-autosuggest&q=Stanford%20in%20the%20> and click 'support us'. Thank you!

Amazon Smile is also another great way of raising money for the Pre-school. Just ensure that when you go into Amazon you go in through: smile.amazon.co.uk and register us as your chosen charity. Every time you spend, we will get a percentage. You can now use Amazon smile on your amazon phone app too by selecting Amazon Smile in settings and nominate us as your charity.



Overcoming Anxiety & Depression Together

Oxfordshire IAPT

Life has likely been stressful during this COVID 19 pandemic. It is really important to take time to care for yourselves. TalkingSpace Plus is a free, confidential NHS service for adults in Oxfordshire, to help people when they're feeling stressed, anxious or low and we offer our treatments online for your safety and convenience. If you feel you would benefit from support please contact our service directly on 01865 901222 or visit www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/talkingspaceplus.

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/>