



Newsletter - Term 1 - 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. These newsletters come out termly and aim to give you a snap shot of what we have been up to this term and important dates for the following term.

Hopefully you have all found our website and find it useful and since September we have been making a real effort to put more photos and information onto our Facebook page as many parents have fed back to us that this is a good way of communicating with you and that they enjoy seeing what we have been up to. Please see information on the right for ways to access both platforms.

We have had a really positive start to the year with all children returning this year settling back in well. Our new children that joined us this term have also made a really positive start to their time at Pre-school.



This term we have continued with our Woodworking, which again has proved really popular with children spending long periods of time showing high levels of concentration and involvement in what they are doing. We have also had several children really fascinated with volcanoes. They have been making them out of bricks with

Dates for your diary:

Monday 4th November – Term 2 starts

Wednesday 6th November - Open Morning 10-11am

Wednesday 11th December – Christmas performance at the church at 5pm

Thursday 19th December – End of Term 2

Tuesday 7th 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>

material, playdough, junk modelling and clay and have also been involved in doing Volcano experiments making an eruption using vinegar and baking soda.

The children all really enjoyed making their apple crumbles and hopefully their families enjoyed eating them too. Several children made soup with Jude using a squash that they cut open and then prepared themselves with other vegetables. We then all tried it at lunchtime, it was delicious!

We have also been on an Autumn listening walk in the sunshine. We collected lots of conkers, leaves and twigs and enjoyed looking at them a little closer and painting and sticking with them.

We have also added new items to the home corner, and this has proved a hit with the children. They have enjoyed acting out scenarios from home and creating imaginary games with their friends.

We held a successful joint Macmillan Coffee morning with Chatterbox raising £165. Many thanks to those parents who made cakes and came along.

We also had our AGM this term which unfortunately only 2 parents came along to. We have had several members of our previous committee stand down as their children have now gone to school, so we are looking for new members. Please let either Nina or Jo our Chair know if you are interested in becoming a member.

Congratulations to Jude who has now completed her NVQ Level 3. She has worked so tirelessly on this and we know that the children are already benefitting from her increased knowledge.

Kate will be away from the end of November till mid-December as she is going to visit a relative in South Africa. Kate's shifts will be covered by other staff members as will responsibility for her key children. We hope she has a wonderful time.

As I mentioned previously the children are all really enjoying woodworking. In order to keep offering this we are going to need to ask parents for a small donation to cover the cost of the resources. We need to buy specialist balsa wood for the children to use which is very soft and has no splinters, nails and buttons etc. we really don't want to have to limit how many times the children can access it.

Moving forward we are asking for £3 donation per term to cover the cost of cooking and woodwork. You can either pay it termly or in a lump sum. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Many thanks to everybody who came along to the Halloween Disco we raised £118.89. Thanks to the fantastic committee for organising and running it. The children all seemed to have a wonderful time.

Upcoming events

Our Christmas performance at the church is on Wednesday 11th December at 5pm. More details will follow closer to the time.

We have an Open Morning planned for Wednesday 6th November from 10-11am. We have places available for children to start with us in January and Easter. Please spread the word if you know anyone that is looking for an outstanding Pre-school for their child and tell them to come along to our Open morning.

Save the Date – The Pre-school is 50 years old next year and we are planning a big event to celebrate on Saturday 16th May 2020. More information will follow closer to the time. If you would like to be involved in planning this fun event, please let us know.

Useful information

Reading and sharing books with your children has massive benefits for you and your child. Using the local library is a great place for you to borrow books for free. There are local libraries at both Wantage and Faringdon. If your child is not already a member you can join online. Information about Oxfordshire libraries and how to join can be found here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries/children-and-young-people>

Information and tips on reading and sharing stories with your children can be found here:

<https://www.bsooktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

Many children regularly use the Pre-school library. We would love all the children to make use of this resource and urge parents whose children who have not used it for a while to bring in any books they have at home and we can then issue their child with a book to share at home. Reading with your child is one of the biggest things you can do to give your child a massive head start in learning to read.

Reminders

Please can parents ensure their child has a warm and waterproof coat at Pre-school for them to wear in the garden. The door is open all day regardless of the weather. Also, as the weather is getting colder please also make sure they have gloves and hats too. It may be worth investing in a waterproof all-in-one for your child, that way they may not need so many changes of clothes when they have got wet in the garden.

We are missing a lot of Pre-school spare clothes that children have borrowed from us. Please have a look at home and return any that belong to us.

Please can all parents ensure that they put a plastic bag in their child's bag for us to put their wet/dirty clothes in. We really don't want to have to spend money on buying bags to send things home in.

Easyfundraising

Christmas is coming and lots of people will be shopping 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/?pageVersion=1&cat=cause-autosuggest&q=Stanford%20in%20the%20> and click 'support us'. Thank you!

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.

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.