



Newsletter - Term 2 - 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas. Happy New Year to you all – let's hope is another great year for the Pre-school.

At the end of last year, we had another busy term with the children getting up to all sorts. We have been seeing lots of lovely imaginative play in our recently extended home corner area! The children spend long periods of time with their peers developing their imaginations acting out different scenarios and taking on different roles. In addition, they have been using the mark making resources available to make lists, write letters etc.

The children have enjoyed making healthy pizzas and using their fine motor skills to chop vegetables. Hopefully they went down well at home.

Life cycles and changes over time has also been a topic of conversation and we have been looking at animals that have similar traits and thinking about how they move or how high they jump. We have been talking about how different people have different thoughts and ideas on things and listening and respecting each other's ideas.

Needless to say, there have also been a lot of Christmas activities! We visited the church and listened to the Christmas story. Practiced and performed our amazing Christmas play, dressed up as Father Christmas, made our own Christmas cards and wonderful salt dough decorations. There was even a visit from Father Christmas! Lots of festive fun! We made an amazing £150 from the raffle – thank you so much for your generous support!

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 7th January – Start of Term 3

Saturday 11th January – Ground Force Morning
– cancelled – new date to follow

Friday 14th February – Term 3 ends

Monday 24th February – Term 4 starts

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The 'Show and Tell' bags will be coming home with your children after we return in the New Year. If your child comes home with a bag, please could they bring something to show the next time they are in Pre-School. We will then issue the bag to another child. There is some information inside the bag about the sort of things to send in and why. Maths Sacks are also being issued to your children, please feel free to hold onto these to share with your children for a week or so. Thank you very much for your support with these initiatives.

Thanks to Rob, one of our parents, the children's toilets have been redecorated and refreshed – with new toilet seats, new flush buttons and new door knobs. This has really made a difference and we thank Rob very much for giving so much of his time in order to make this happen.

The children are loving the two wonderful new scooters that we have recently invested in and whizzing around the Pre-school garden! They have been displaying excellent turn-taking skills using the timers to good effect.

In January we will be moving the woodwork bench inside to make sure all children have access to it – we are finding with the poorer weather some children are not wanting to go outside as much and standing still woodworking they do get cold.

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 those of you who have already paid this, but we are still missing quite a few.

Thank you to everyone who supported us by purchasing Christmas cards and items, we made approx. £50 which is fantastic!

We are very aware at Christmas that it can be an expensive time of year and try to keep requests for things to a minimum. Due to your generosity we were able to donate a big box of items to the Wantage and Grove Foodbank – thank you for your continued support.

Our focus for the coming year is to try and make the Pre-school as environmentally friendly as possible. At present we try and keep our waste to an absolute minimum, use resources sparingly and recycle all we can. We would love it if we can try and encourage parents to package the items in their children's lunchboxes with re-usable items such as boxes and bees wax wraps and avoid clingfilm and freezer bags which cannot be recycled. We would also like if each child could have a bag on their pegs for wet clothes to go in as we are trying to avoid using single use plastic bags.

Healthy lunches

One part of our remit as a Pre-school by following the EYFS is to help support parents and promote children to be healthy. This includes keeping active and ensuring that the children get plenty of exercise and fresh air and also helping to ensure they eat a healthy and balanced diet. Diets high in sugar and salt can have huge long- term effects on children's health.

The daily recommended salt intake for a child is:

Children 1-3 – 2g of salt a day

Children 4-6 – 3g of salt a day.

A lot of the things that we are seeing in children's lunchboxes are taking a huge chunk of this allowance for only one of their meals.

More information about salt in our food can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/salt-nutrition/>

Likewise, for sugar. Children are having lots of packets of snacks in their lunch boxes, these contain lots of sugar.

The daily recommended intake of sugar is:

Children aged 4-6 – no more than 19g of sugar a day – this is equivalent to 5 sugar cubes.

There is no guideline limit for children under 4 – but they recommend that you avoid giving foods with sugar added to them.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/how-does-sugar-in-our-diet-affect-our-health/>

Just to highlight this – an Aldi Groovy biscuit contains 11g of sugar, and Aldi Squidgy Pouch Yogurt contains 7.9g. The government has now made it easier for people to make more informed choices about food as they insist that food producers put details of how much salt, sugar, saturates etc. are in the food. They also label them red, amber green and give a percentage of an adults daily allowance it is – remember that is an adult daily allowance, not a child's.

We would love your support with this and recommend that parents try adding lots of fresh fruit and vegetables to their children's lunchboxes including carrots, cucumber and tomatoes. Perhaps decanting a small number of crisps into a pot rather than children eating a whole packet. Swapping white bread for brown ensures children get more fibre in their diet and helps them to stay fuller for longer are just a few ideas.

There are lots more ideas and help here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Many thanks for your support with this.

Upcoming events

On 11th January we were planning on having a Ground Force morning from 10am – lunchtime. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel this as we are unable to organise a trailer and somewhere to dispose of the old mulch and topsoil. We are going to try and sort this so that we can arrange another date. Many thanks to those parents who had volunteered to help.

Save the Date – The Pre-school is 50 years old this 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.

Primary School Application for September 2020

Children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 (inclusive) need to apply for a primary or infant school place for their children, as they will be starting School in September 2020.

From 1 November 2019 you can [apply online](#) for a primary or infant school place.

Please use link below:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/admissions-infant-and-primary-schools>

If you cannot apply online, you can request a paper application form from schools, nurseries and from the School Admissions Team.

The deadline for receipt of primary and infant school applications is **15 January 2020**

If your application is late, it will be processed later in the year, and you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools.

If you need any advice or help with your child's application, please do not hesitate to ask us.

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.

Easyfundraising

Even though Christmas is over 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 money, we will get a percentage.

My Nametags

The best way to avoid your child's clothes going missing is to label them. If you order through <https://www.mynametags.com/> and use our I.D: 48953 we will receive a percentage of the order. Many thanks.

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.