



Newsletter - Term 6 - 2019

Dear Parents,

We have been outside a lot over the last few weeks, enjoying the sunshine! We have been finding out about ladybirds, pretending to be 'Pre-school ladies' and taking 'group time'! There have been amazing robots built out of crates and wooden blocks and the very popular play theme of Pirates has occupied lots of children over the past few weeks!

The children have loved working with clay this term and creating wonderful 'Under The Sea' themed creations for Stanford Festival! They have also enjoyed planting beans and talking about what they need as we watch them change and grow.

We welcomed groups of parents to take part in woodworking demonstrations this term. We wanted to share with you exactly what your child would be enjoying at Pre-school over the coming months; as our new and exciting woodworking initiative takes shape! Thank you to those who came along. We have been delighted with your enthusiasm and positive comments. We began to offer children the children leaving to go to school in July their first taste of woodworking in the last week of term. As we imagined the children were incredibly enthusiastic and keen to have a go.



The children seem to pick up the skills very quickly and soon became independent. They showed high levels of focus and concentration. They were absolutely delighted with what they had created.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 4th June – Term 6 Starts

Wednesday 12th June – Photographer Visit/Leavers Photo 9am

Friday 14th June – Father's Day Picnic – 12noon

Sunday 16th June – Village Festival (Stocks & Teddy Tombola Stall)

Thursday 27th June – Roves Farm Trip

Wednesday 3rd July – Toddle Waddle 9.30am

Friday 5th July – Primary School Sport's Day

Saturday 13th July – School Fete

Thursday 18th July – Leaver's Picnic 11am

Wednesday 24th July - End of Term

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We were really pleased to secure a very generous grant from the Public Purposes Charity (The PPC) to repair our green play surface, which has been lifting for the last year. This work will be taking place in the half term break.

Next term is going to be very busy as we prepare our older children for Primary School. There will be lots of visits to the school as well as Foundation teachers visiting us at Pre-school. This really helps with the transition process as the children are familiarised with their new teachers and new surroundings. The children will participate in school role play and they will have the chance to create their own 'School Book' which will include photos of their new teachers and their new school together with any thoughts, concerns and the things they are looking forward to about moving up to Primary School. These books will come home so that you are able to share them with your child over the long summer holidays; to continue to prepare your child for the next leg of their educational journey!

For our younger children we will be making 'Pre-school books' with them with photos of the Pre-school ladies in and of the Pre-school so that parents can share these with their children over the summer holidays and help make the return to Pre-school in September a breeze!

Nina has produced a fact sheet with information about getting your child ready for school. If your child is leaving us in July, this will be sent by email to you.

We will again welcome Secondary school students for work experience next term. We will have Amber joining us w/c 17th June and Molly and Kate w/c 8th July

Upcoming events

We are very pleased to welcome Lisa from Love 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 13th June**. There will be a group Pre-school photo at **9am** which we would love all our children to be in., even if your child isn't usually in session, could we ask you to pop along. After the group photo there will be the opportunity for those not usually in session to have an individual photograph taken. The rest of the children will have their photos taken throughout the rest of the morning.

www.lovekidsphoto.co.uk

On **Friday 14th June** please join us for our Father's Day picnic which will take place at **12noon** in the park. We hope lots of Daddy's will be able to make it!

The Pre-school will be running a Stocks & Teddy Tombola still at the Stanford Village Festival on **Sunday 16th June** and we need lots of volunteers! We have a sign-up sheet at Pre-school so if you could spare half an hour (or more!) please pop your name on the list when you're next in. We also need you to donate any unwanted Teddies that are in good, clean condition. Please could we ask you to bring these into Pre-school by **Wednesday 12th June** at the latest. Thank you.

On **Thursday 27th June** we have our Roves Farm Pre-school outing! We have had a fantastic response to this trip. Due to such high numbers there is going to be an additional charge for adults. We will confirm exactly how much this will be after half term.

<https://rovesfarm.co.uk/>

We will be participating in the Toddle Waddle with the Foundation Class from Primary School on **Wednesday 3rd July at 9.30am** to raise money for Barnardos. Please click on the link below and donate on our fundraising page. We would love it if one or two parents would offer to run this little event for us. Please speak to Nina if you are happy to help.

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/bigtoddle>

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stanfordbigtoddle2019>

The children have the opportunity to join in with the Primary School's Sport's Day on **Friday 5th July**. We usually head down to the school at approx. 11am. We would be grateful of parents help, so please let us know if you're available.

On **Thursday 18th July at 11am** we will hold our 'Leavers Picnic' to say goodbye to those children leaving us to go to school, although all children are invited to come along. We have booked an interactive music and movement session with Boogie Beats to entertain us. We are asking for a £1 donation towards this. Boogie beats will join us at 11.15am; afterwards we will enjoy a picnic lunch followed by the presentation of the leaver's certificates and medals.

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.booktrust.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.

Some families who are receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to Healthy Start vouchers to spend on fresh fruit and vegetables as well as fresh milk. Follow the link to check whether you may be entitled.

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

Reminders

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.

It is really important that you put sun cream on your child before they arrive at Pre-school.

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 children's spare 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 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.

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.