



Newsletter - Term 3 - 2020

Dear Parents,

The children that joined us in January are making friends and settling into their new routine very well – which is lovely to see!

The children have been very excited and keen to play on our new hanging bars, on the tree in the Pre-school garden! Using timers to help them determine when it's time to share and being encouraged to think about their own safety and risk assess themselves and those around them - It's proving to be a very positive addition to our outside space!

We have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch. The children have loved using the binoculars and have learnt about the different foods the birds eat - whilst filling up our various feeders. Inspired to draw the birds they have spotted has encouraged reflection and sparked conversation about colours, sizes and the names of the birds that have come to visit us.

Inspired by the heavy rain of late we have been learning about floating and sinking about heavy and light. Also, whilst outside, looking at the new shoots coming up in the Pre-school garden and thinking about growth and change over time.

Another topic of conversation and focus has been on Chinese New Year and other festivals that are celebrated throughout the year.

The children have been working on initial sounds, segmenting words, blending and identifying letters and writing their names. Listening to music and playing instruments to encourage the children to identify different sounds really benefits them when it comes to learning how to read and write.

We have also been baking some delicious fruit scones! We hope you enjoyed them!

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 24th February Start of Term 4

Tuesday 3rd March Stay & Play

Monday 16th March Sport's Relief

Wednesday 18th March Mother's Day
Breakfast

Friday 3rd April Term 4 ends

Monday 20th April Term 5 starts

Saturday 16th May Pre-school's 50th
Birthday Party!

Wednesday 10th June Love Photography –
group and individual photos

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Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make the Ground Force morning such a success! An amazing, great team of willing volunteers – came toolled up!

We got the old surface of mud and sand dug up pretty quickly and the new bark down thanks to all the cups of coffee and bacon sandwiches, all the while the children had breakfast and played inside.

Huge thanks particularly to Mille's Dad for providing the trailer and his professional know how.



For Valentine's Day we asked the children to bring someone they love into Pre-school, to share a special breakfast with. We do this every year, but this year was our busiest! Thank you to those who came to enjoy a lovely breakfast with their child, we hope you enjoyed it.

The 'Show and Tell' bags will be coming home with your children again next term. 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.

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.

Parental questionnaire

It would be great if all parents could spend a few minutes filling in the questionnaire. The link will be open till the 28th February. We really welcome any feedback parents can give us so that we can look at ways of improving what we currently offer.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V8P3NNQ>

Focus child

Each term your child has a focus week at Pre-school. Prior to this week we send out a form to all parents asking for their input. It would be really nice, and very useful if we could have a few more of these filled in. As parents you are the people who know your children best and a great source of information for us when working with your children. We would really welcome your input. Many thanks

50th birthday

On Saturday May 16th from 2-4:30pm we will be holding an event to celebrate the Pre-schools 50th Birthday. We are in the process of planning it. We have come up with some great ideas including a Pre-school choir! We would love you to spread the word around the village and encourage anyone who has been involved in the Pre-school over the last 50 years – child, parent, committee member etc. to come along on the day. We would also love to hear their stories about the Pre-school and see any photographs they may have.

This year's focus

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.

Here are a few ideas of reusable packaging:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=reusable+food+storage+bags+silicone&i=kitchen&crd=3EFUAATEX34UW&sprefix=reusable+food+storage+%2Ckitchen%2C173&ref=nb_sb_ss_organic-pltr-v2_2_22

<https://www.beeswaxwraps.co.uk/>

Healthy lunches

As I mentioned in the last newsletter 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 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.

I'm really pleased that so many parents have made some positive changes to their children's lunch boxes. There are some great ideas on the Change for Life website to keep you motivated!

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

Many thanks for your support with this.

Upcoming events

On Tuesday 3rd March we will be having a 'stay and play' morning. All parents and children are welcome. This is an ideal opportunity for parents to come in and see what your children get up to in Pre-school. Jude will be running a woodwork introduction session for parents. A great opportunity to meet and chat to other parents.

To raise money for Sport Relief we will be having a Sports morning on Monday 16th March. The children will be taking part in a variety of physical activities. The children can come dressed for sport and make a £1 donation to the charity.

We will be holding a Mother's day breakfast on Wednesday 18th March. A great opportunity to celebrate all that our Mums do for 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 people still continue to 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/?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.

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.