



## Newsletter - Term 4 - 2020

Dear Parents,

Due to unprecedented times I am writing this at a time when the Pre-school is closed and as of now, we have no idea when it will re-open.

I thought it might cheer everyone up to share some photos of last terms activities before we abruptly closed.

Also, I wanted to remind people of how to keep in touch and share some ideas to do with your children at home.

We had a wonderful Sport Relief morning with the children taking part in lots of races and exercise. They enjoyed running, riding hobby horses, ball games. They did incredibly well with listening and following instructions and waiting their turn. We were all out of breath after all the exercise and observed and talked about the effect on our body and what was happening inside us.



### Dates for your diary:

I have removed some of the dates as we don't know yet when Pre-school will re-open. I'm being optimistic by leaving the dates below.

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

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June Love Photography – group and individual photos

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Follow us on Facebook:

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

Closed Facebook group

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



The children have also enjoyed sewing and woodwork activities and planting seeds ready for their mum's on Mother's Day – we hope you liked them.

They have continued to Birdwatch as we have had lots of bird visitors to our garden largely due to the fact we have been putting out seeds for them. This is something you can continue to do at home as now that the weather has improved, I have been seeing an increase in numbers of birds in my garden and I'm sure it's the same in yours.

The children have also been having fun taking part in Letters and Sounds activities such as rhyming soup and Cross the River.

### **School Places**

Parents of children due to go to school in September should be hearing about their child's place on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020. We haven't had any information regarding whether this date still stands or whether there will be a delay. I just wanted to remind parents to look out for their email and make sure they accept their place before the deadline.

Also, at this stage we have no idea when we will return to Pre-school. I just wanted to reassure parents of children leaving us in July that we will do all we can to ensure that this cohort of children enjoy the same activities such as Leavers photographs, picnic etc. even if the dates have to change.

## **Parental questionnaire**

I have attached along with this newsletter the correlated results of the questionnaire. We had 20 responses which is wonderful but would welcome more.

## **Facebook Groups**

One way of us keeping in touch with you during the closure is by using Facebook. We now have two Pre-school Facebook groups. We have set up a new closed group for current parents and staff. Please see the link above. Please just request to join and once you have been verified you will be free to post and comment etc. It is so lovely to see what you have all been up to, but please can I ask parents to be mindful when posting that children all develop at different rates and have different strengths. During the Early Years Foundation Stage children are learning through having fun and playing and this won't change once they reach the Foundation class at school. Many parents may well be struggling with entertaining their children at home and I would ask parents to be mindful about what they are posting and how this may be viewed by others. Thank you.

## **Keeping in touch**

We hope you are enjoying the stories that staff are recording and sharing on Facebook. I will continue to pass on ideas and information to you at home.

One of the things we do quite a lot of with the children is Letters and Sounds activities. These are fun play-based activities which help children to develop the skills they will need to read. We are working on Phase one. The other phases will be covered once they get to school. Some parents may think these look far too simple, but they are really important in helping children to develop the skills they need, from discriminating sounds to recognizing and recreating rhyme for reading. I have been pulling together some information and ideas on this for parents and will share these with you. One of the most important things to support children in this area is to ensure that when you are talking about what words start with you are talking about the sound not the letter name. For example, mmm not M. One app we do use with the children at Pre-school is Twinkl Lite. It gives all the phonic sounds on there so parents can ensure they are pronouncing them correctly.

I will also send along a list of ideas from the Early Years team at Oxfordshire County Council and other ideas shared by the government.

We would love you to keep adding photos and comments onto your child's ILD.

Should families need to self-isolate hopefully those of you who live in Stanford will know about Stanford 20 helpers, a group of volunteers who are willing to help people who need to self-isolate. All houses in the village should have received an email informing them who their local volunteer is. There is also a Facebook group too: Stanford 20 helpers.

