

November Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents

We hope everyone has enjoyed the half term break and we are looking forward to another month of fun and learning in Pre-School.

We were delighted to have been able to bring forward our **Pumpkin Party** for the children to enjoy before we had our extra week of closure. Everyone really enjoyed this and we hope you have been able to get online to check out the photographs we put up.

We are currently trying to get another date to have a morning in the Forest School and will keep you posted when we get this confirmed.

Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported our **Sponsored Walk**. If you haven't yet sent in your sponsorship money we would be very grateful for your support. We are hoping to buy new resources to add to our outdoor play and have already purchased some new balance bikes and helmets.

Parent interviews: Thank you to all parents of Pre-School children who attended the 'Settling In' interviews before the half term break. It was lovely to meet you all and to share your child's progress and development to date in Pre-School. If you missed your interview please contact me to organize a telephone meeting. I will be in touch with playgroup parents.

The '**Autumn**' Learning topic last month learning about Trees in Autumn, and Woodland Animals/hibernation was really enjoyed by the children and they had lots of fun making their trees and clay pumpkins to take home.

As this topic ended rather quickly with the extra week of closure we are planning to continue with 'Autumn' for another week this month.

Display of Autumn Paintings: We have a lovely display of the children's autumn paintings in Pre-School and we will get some photos of these to add to our webpage for you enjoy.

Continued overleaf

We will be introducing '**Goldilocks & The 3 Bears**' to our imaginative play 'Forest' with lots of related books, visuals, puppets, puzzles and games. Within this story and play we will be talking to the children about different sizes - comparing small, large and medium/middle size - We will be introducing opposites - Hard/Soft, Hot/Cold and Big/Small and we will be making porridge.

We will be encouraging children to engage in lots of **Table Top Activities** to develop concentration and fine motor skills - jigsaw puzzles, small construction activities, matching & sorting games, threading and writing/drawing activities. The Early Years Education Team have identified that in our world of touch screens and screen play that children are delaying their development of fine motor skills and we continue to plan to support development of these skills.

Later this month we will be introducing the Topic will be 'All About Me'

We will be talking about 'Growing Up, learning about 'Our Emotions' 'Our Senses' and learning about Keeping Healthy & Keeping Safe - this will include learning about Road Safety, learning about food and why our body needs food - Sleep and why our body needs sleep - and learning about Hygiene.

Singing & Rhyme Time: Continues to be enjoyed by the children each day and we really have some very enthusiastic performers this year. We are planning to record a session and put this on our page for parents to enjoy and will keep you informed of when we get this accomplished.

Current Guidance is currently not permitting us to have our annual Open Night in December. If you know of any parents with young children who will be of age to register for Pre-School enrolment in September 2021 please ask them to contact me.

Diary Dates: As we continue to try and keep things as normal and as fun as possible in Pre-School while adhering to all Covid-19 guidance we are making some plans for special Christmas treats.

Sadly, we will not be able to host our annual Christmas Party to include parents in the Leisure Centre this year - but Santa will be visiting Pre-School and we will host a virtual Christmas Performance for everyone to enjoy.

We have booked 'Mr Hullabaloo Children's Theatre Company' to come to Pre-School for a socially distanced, special, Christmas Performance on Monday 7th December. This will take place in the main school hall and more details will follow.

Christmas Jumper/T.Shirt Day with 'Jump, Jiggle & Jive' is planned for Thursday 17th December - Both morning and afternoon groups of children will come together for this morning of Christmas fun - starting at 9 am and finishing at 11 am.

This will be our last day of term and we will reopen again Tuesday 5th January.

** Please do not send your child to Pre-School if they are in any way unwell or if anyone in your household has any Covid-19 symptoms, as we continue to try and minimise the risks of infections during these winter months.

** Pre-School will now **not** be closed on Monday 30th November.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Julie, Karen, Wendy, Joanne, Lorraine & Caitlin