

October Newsletter

Dear Parents

September seems to have flown in and here we are now in October.

Your child has had a busy few weeks with us and we have already noted so much progress in their development, especially in their independence and self-confidence. They are already forming friendships and settled so well into our daily routines and enjoying the wide variety of activities and tasks we provide each day.

September's Learning Update: Our main focus during September was to ensure that all children settled happily into Pre-School and introduce them to our daily routines - ie Self-registration (where the children put their photo on our Registration Board when they arrive each day), Snack Routine, To-Days Helper & The Weather Chart and 'Our How To Be A Good Listener Routine' - These are all things we encourage you to talk to your child about. We have been learning new songs and rhymes and the children have really enjoyed our Group Learning Time and Story Time each day.

Snack Routine: Our daily snack routine has been a popular time of the day and children are really enjoying the time to eat and chat together and enjoy a variety of food, fruit and vegetables.

**** Please remember to pay snack fee during the first week of each month using the envelope attached to this Newsletter.**

We have also been learning about colour and shapes. As some of our children could already recognise and name colours and simple shapes we developed their knowledge of this by introducing, comparing and discussing different shades of colours, introducing colour words (on our Colour Wall) and encouraging children to develop their use of colour words as adjectives in their language and introduce early phonics as we discussed the sounds used for each word. We have been linking colour and shape into our mathematical activities with matching and sorting tasks, puzzles, table top games and making colour patterns with paint and peg boards.

Continued Overleaf

Outdoor Play: I hope you have had an opportunity to check out our webpage to see the photos of the children enjoying outdoor play.?

**** As recommended by the Education Authority and Child health agencies we try to have some outdoor play each day if the weather is anyway favourable. With Autumn weather being as it is please ensure your child has a warm coat with them each day and please remember to have this clearly labelled with their name.

Painting is available every day in Pre-School to maximise and develop children's creativity. We try to record any language from your child on their work. Please be mindful that children create their own ideas in their paintings and while it might look like a big blob of colour it will have their story to it!! From time to time we have more directed painting sessions when children are supported and encouraged to copy something or we suggest ideas in how to paint various things usually related to our Learning Topic each month. Some paintings will be on our Wall Displays and then kept in your child's folder for you to enjoy at the end of the year.

Our Learning Topic this month will focus on Autumn: We will be introducing:- Autumn as a season, Autumn Weather, Trees in Autumn (learning about evergreen & deciduous trees and their fruit and berries) Animals in Autumn (learning about hibernation & migration) and Harvest. We will introduce some new autumn related songs and rhymes and our Imaginative Play provision will be linked to this. We have some lovely Autumn related books and stories for everyone to enjoy.

We are having our annual **'Pumpkin Party' on Thursday 22nd October.** Children are encouraged to come in Fancy Dress (nothing scary, no swords etc and no masks please as many children find these very frightening.) This will take place during your child's usual hours in Pre-School.

Forest School Outing: We are looking forward to our end of term visit to The Greenleaf Forest School at Spa, Ballynahinch on **Friday 23rd October.** Parents are asked to leave their child at the entrance gate with Pre-School staff at 9.30 and collect children again from there at 11.30. There will be no afternoon session of Pre-School on this date. More details will follow.

Sponsored Walk: As you are aware our Pre-School is privately run and we receive no additional funding from the Education Authority for resources etc. We independently fund the rent of our premises and its maintenance and with all the financial cuts in educational provision we are asking for your support. Each year we organise one major fund raising event and in past years this would have taken place in April/May but parents have shared their opinion that they would prefer to raise money for resources that their child would benefit from during their year with us rather than at the end of this time.

We are planning a Sponsored Walk to take place on Friday 16th October. (Weather permitting of course although unless it is very wet we will be in coats and wellies and braving the elements !!)

The walk will be 2 laps around the riverside walk beside Pre-School and will take place during your child's usual hours of Pre-School.

Morning Group children will walk at 10.45am and Afternoon Group Children will walk at 12.15pm. We are planning to finish off the walk with an outdoor autumn picnic if the weather permits.

We would really appreciate your support for this fundraising effort and have attached a sheet for sponsorship.

Settling In Interviews: Over the next few weeks you will be invited to meet with Julie to discuss how your child has settled into Pre-School. This will be an opportunity for you to discuss any issues or concerns you may have and enable us to support your child and plan accordingly.

With the current Covid-19 guidance and restrictions in place our interviews will be conducted differently this year. The Primary School have kindly offered us the use of the main school for these interviews which will enable social distancing. I will provide details of dates and times - if this does not suit please contact me to rearrange another date.

**** Pre-School will be closed Monday 25th October - Monday 1st November for half term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Julie, Karen, Wendy, Joanne, Lorraine & Caitlin