

September Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents

We are pleased that our induction sessions went so well last month with most children happy and enjoying their time with us.

Our priority over the next few weeks will be to support them cope with this new experience and ensure that it is as positive and happy as possible.

Hopefully all children will cope with the longer sessions and will be happy to attend every day. We will monitor this and keep you informed but if you feel your child is really struggling to cope with full sessions please speak to me at any time and we can plan accordingly.

Pre-School sessions are busy and it will really help your child to cope if they are in bed early and have a good night's sleep.

Your child will have met Julie and Karen during the last two week and this week they will meet the other members of our team - Wendy, Joanne, Lorraine and Caitlin.

Each day there will be 3 members of staff on duty.

Our aim is that all our children enjoy the play and activities we provide in Pre-School and that all our resources are developmentally appropriate for their ages and stages of development. We will carry out observations to ensure that we provide activities to build on children's progression and learning.

We will be encouraging and developing your child's social skills as they learn to play co-operatively with other children and make their own choices of play activities.

They will be encouraged to get and put on their own coats at home time or for outdoor play and to be independent when toileting and handwashing. (we will be supporting them as they develop these skills.)

You were provided with a copy of our Behaviour Management Policy in one of information packs provided over the Summer and will be aware that we promote and reward positive behaviour rather than focus on negative behaviour - encouraging children to make good behaviour choices. This week we will be talking to the children about our 'rules' in preschool and why we have them -

Our Rules -

'We will care for and share our toys'

'We walk inside Pre-School but can run during outdoor play'

'We keep our hands and feet to ourselves and use kind words.'

'We listen to the teacher so that we know what is happening next and learn new things.'

We have these rules 'To keep everyone happy and safe'

Session Times: Please remember that morning sessions of Pre-School are from 9am - 11.30am and that afternoon sessions are from 12.15 - 2.45 pm - please try to be on time to collect your child each day as it can be very distressing for a child to be kept waiting and be mindful that staff have a lot of cleaning and setting up to do before and after sessions.

Home Time: As discussed in the letter sent home last week 'Home Time' can be a little hectic for the first few weeks as children are always very excited to see you again. To keep all children safe and avoid any child escaping without their parents we encourage children to remain inside Pre-School until we take them to the gate for collection. This is something you can talk to your child about at home and we appreciate your patience as you wait at the gate. Please remember to be aware of social distancing at all times at the gate and car park.

Children's Clothing: Please ensure that you have clearly marked your child's coats, wellies and sweatshirts with their name. We will soon have photographs taken and attached to pegs in our cloakroom area to provide each child with their own peg to hang their coats etc on.

Illness: Although we encourage good attendance in Pre-School with the current Covid-19 situation, it is extremely important that you do not send your child into school when they are unwell - including rashes, tummy bugs, temperatures, colds or coughs or if anyone in your household has any symptoms of the virus. What may seem a minor illness for your child could be passed on and become a major illness for another child and as we strive to keep Pre-School open during this pandemic it is vital that we all work together to keep our children, families and staff free from infection.

****** Please ensure your child hands and fingernails are clean before they come into Pre-School. We will be using hand sanitizer when they arrive and will be encouraging frequent hand washing throughout the session.

Absence or Holidays: Please write a short note explaining any absences as these are required by the Education Authority who are funding your child's place in Pre-School.

Allergies or Medical Conditions: Please make sure you have made staff aware of any allergies or medical conditions your child has.

Snack Routine: This week we will be introducing our snack routine - we provide a healthy snack each day - We offer different choices from options including toast, pancakes, breadsticks, crackers, cheese, yoghurts, ham sandwiches, a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables and milk or water.

Snack Fees: Each month we will attach an envelope on the Monthly newsletter and ask that payment is returned in this and we respectfully ask that fees are paid during the first week of each month.

Each month we will have a **Learning Topic** and this will be supported with relevant imaginative play activities and through Stories, Planned Group Discussion and Interactive Topic Tables. We will keep you informed about learning topics in our Newsletters and updates.

Photographs: Hopefully you have been able to view the photos of your child and their new friends which were added to our webpage last week - we will continue to add photos to our page in the months ahead for you to enjoy.

Throughout your child's year in Pre-School we take photographs which we will gift to you at the end of the school year.

Allergies or Medical Conditions: Please make sure you have made staff aware of any allergies or medical conditions your child has.

We aim to work closely with all our parents and value you as your child's primary carer. If you have any concerns about your child settling into Pre-School or their development please speak to me - Julie 07811959019. I am planning to meet with parents within the next 6 weeks to discuss with you how your child is settling into Pre-School.

We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child over the next few weeks and months and to work with you as we ensure their Pre-School experience is a happy and positive one as we support their further progress and development.

Kind Regards

Julie, Karen, Wendy, Joanne, Lorraine & Caitlin

PLEASE NOTE - THERE WILL BE NO PRE-SCHOOL AFTERNOON SESSION ON FRIDAY
11TH JUNE