

# South Woodham Pre School



## Autumn Newsletter : December 2018

### LOOKING BACK.....

Over the last half term the children have enjoyed lots of fun activities based around the theme of Fireworks, Witches and Wizards, St Andrew's Day, Diwali and of course Christmas. They have enjoyed our role play area set up as a Witches & Wizards Spell Room, a Vets, a Hairdressers Salon, a Doctors Surgery, a Post Office and Santa's Workshop.

Our Stepping Stones children have had great fun this half term with Bananas now having visited quite a few children's houses – he will be visiting everyone's house by the end of the school year. The children's creative work has included making a pumpkin face, chalk firework pictures, making invitations for the Christmas Nativity show, practicing their scissor control and stenciling. Their investigative work has included Wizard's Brew experiment, baking Cheese Straws, investigating our environment and finger painting – matching quantity to numerals.

We look forward to welcoming to our new starters after half term: Addyson, Aspyn, Aya, Freya, Jack, Layla, Maddison & Poppy.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM:

**EXTRA EASTER OPENING DAYS – WE WILL BE OPENING ON THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DAYS IN APRIL NEXT YEAR. TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>, THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AND FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL. AS SET OUT IN THE LETTER YOU RECEIVED IN OCTOBER 2018 OUR FUNDING DOESN'T COVER THIS ADDITIONAL WEEK THEREFORE, THESE SESSIONS WOULD NEED TO BE PAID FOR BY FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY IN ORDER TO SECURE YOUR CHILD'S PLACE AND ALLOW US TO STAFF THE SESSIONS ACCORDINGLY. THE COST OF THESE SESSIONS WILL BE THE USUAL PRICES OF £10.00 FOR MORNING SESSION, £4.50 FOR LUNCH CLUB AND £12.00 FOR AFTERNOON SESSION.**

**PLEASE NOTE: YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND ON ANY OF THE SESSIONS EVEN IF IT ISN'T THEIR USUAL SESSION.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE DATES PLEASE SPEAK WITH THE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**FROM JANUARY 2019 WE WILL BE GOING PAPERLESS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE SO PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM US OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS REGULARLY FOR ANY IMPORTANT MESSAGES/ANNOUNCEMENTS. A PAPER COPY OF ALL LETTERS SENT HOME WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE FOYER ON THE PARENTS BOARD.**

**IF YOU USE FACEBOOK AND ARE NOT ALREADY A MEMBER OF OUR CLOSED GROUP PLEASE JOIN AND ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE POSTED ON THERE TOO.**

## **NEW MOBILE NUMBER FOR REPORTING ABSENCES: 07922 806574**

Could we please ask that any absences, swapping of sessions or gifting of sessions be made by text to the above number. This mobile will be checked regularly.

## **AT STEPPING STONES....**

We would like the Stepping Stones children to continue to bring in a toy to correspond with the letter of the week they will be learning. The letter will be displayed in the pre-school foyer on the Stepping Stones board. When we return after the Christmas holidays the letter will be "O".

## **OUR FAMILY BOARD:**

We are still putting together our "Family Board" and would ask that any children who haven't already done so to bring in a photograph of their family and/or extended family. This board is used to celebrate diverse family structures, cultures and religions and to encourage the children to talk about their own relations and identify and embrace similarities and differences.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD INTO PRE-SCHOOL IF THEY ARE UNWELL – GERMS ARE SPREAD SO EASILY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNG CHILDREN – AND A REMINDER TO KEEP YOUR CHILD OFF FOR 48 HOURS AFTER THE LAST BOUT OF SICKNESS/DIARRHOEA. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING.**

## **APPEAL FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS & FUNDRAISERS**

As you are all aware we rely heavily on our Committee through the support of our parents. We have had quite a few members leave this year and really need more parents to join. If you feel this is something you would like to be involved with please speak contact any of the current Committee members or speak to a member of staff. Please be aware that a role on the Committee can be as little as giving up a few hours for any events that are being held or a more involved role as one of our Officers.

## **NON-PAYMENT OF FEES**

As a charity we rely on prompt payments to ensure our financial security. Our revised Non-Payment of Fees Policy is currently under review and will be displayed on the parent notice board once agreed by the Committee – please take the time to familiarise yourself with our procedures regarding fees as set out below.

### **PAYMENT OF FEES**

Can we please remind parents of our policy regarding payment of fees:-

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO PAY FOR YOUR CHILD'S FEES MONTHLY, HALF TERMLY OR TERMLY PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE AT THE BEGINNING OF A MONTH OR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TERM.**

## **"GUESS THE NUMBER" BOARD**

Please take part in our latest fundraiser – place your name next to your chosen number and give your £2 to the office for a chance to win 50% of the amount raised the remaining 50% will be fundraising for pre-school. We are intending to draw this at Christmas so a lovely bonus for the winner!!

## FUNDRAISING BOARD IN THE FOYER

You will have noticed our new Fundraising Board in the foyer. Our team of fundraising are always looking for new ideas for fundraising – if you have any ideas – big or small they would be delighted to hear from you. There is a book on the board for you to write your ideas in.

### FUNDRAISING THIS TERM:

This term we have fundraised:-

Treasure Chests (from Summer):	£15.05
Holly Clacy Event :	£87.00
Half Term Scavenger Hunt :	£55.42
Children in Need :	£81.09
Easyfundraising :	£42.06
Pick a Number :	£4.00
Christmas Raffle :	To be confirmed

### GIFTING AND SELLING SESSIONS

The gifting and selling of sessions is going well on our Facebook page/ sessions for sale board. It really helps pre-school out at this time of the year when all the sessions are so busy, and it helps a lot of parent's that need extra sessions. Could we please ask that if you do take up any sessions or lunches from another child, especially if the agreement is on our Facebook page, that you notify the supervisor on session that day or before if possible, just so we can keep a note in our registers. Many thanks.

### SESSIONS FOR SALE BOARD IN THE FOYER:

Please remember this is for paying parents only (not funded) - it is possible for parents/carers to sell unwanted sessions to other parents. May we remind parents that this is a private arrangement between parents, but please inform pre-school of any changes. Thank you.

### SNACK DURING SESSION NEXT HALF TERM:-

	<u>Main Room</u>	<u>Stepping Stones</u>
Week 1	- Cucumber/Carrot & Dips	Breadsticks & Dried Fruit
Week 2	- Breadsticks & Dried Fruit	Cucumber/Carrot & Dips
Week 3	- Crumpets	Apple, Grapes & Crackerbread
Week 4	- Apple, Grapes & Crackerbread	Crumpets
Week 5	- Chinese Food (to be decided)	:>
Week 6	- Use up from previous weeks	:>

## ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Please be aware that we will always try our best to keep pre-school open in severe weather conditions but if we are forced to close a message would be placed on our Facebook page, a notification will be made on Heart radio and where possible a message would be placed on our answer phone.

## DONATIONS OF TOYS

Thank you for all your donations of toys and clothes recently – we are very grateful for these however, we are now well stocked and aren't able to take anymore donations at the moment.

## PANTOSAURUS.

Talking PANTS teaches children important messages, like their body belongs to them and they should tell an adult if they're upset or worried. Please take the time to watch this short animation and share with your child.



<https://youtu.be/-lL07JOGU5o>

## REMINDERS:

**Could we remind parents that if your child is staying for lunch they require a drink to be provided either in a sports style bottle or in a carton with a straw. Also, chocolate biscuits such as Penguin, Kitkat etc are fine but no chocolate bars or sweets. Thank you for your continued support.**

## PACKED LUNCHES

**Can we please draw parents' attention to the guidelines set out for packed lunches. Please NO nuts or nut products should be brought into pre-school. Could parents please write your child's name INSIDE and OUTSIDE of their lunch box/bag as we have a few that are the same and lastly please ensure all children bring in with them a drink in a sports style bottle. Many thanks for your support.**

Healthy Packed Lunches for Early Years - A practical Guide for Parents and Carers can be found at [www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/childrens-food-trust/early-years](http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/childrens-food-trust/early-years)

## YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

If you have any concerns about your child's speech please speak with your key person at any time. Also, you can access an on-line basic assessment at [www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk) which gives guidance to parents about the ages/stages of a child's speech development.

## IDEAS FOR SNACK

We would appreciate suggestions of any favourite healthy snacks your child has that we could possibly add to our selection of snack choices we offer the children.

## NAMES IN CLOTHING

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE ensure you send your child to pre-school in appropriate clothing/footwear for the season. All items of clothing including jackets and hats should be named. Appropriate footwear worn for safe play in the garden and inside. If your child wears wellie boots on their journey to pre-school please ensure they have appropriate shoes to change into.

If you are potty training your child please supply a few changes of clothes in their bag for 'accidents', including shoes. We do have spare clothes, but are limited on choice/sizes.

## SCOOTERS/BIKES

Unfortunately, we are unable to store any scooters/bikes during the day while your children are at pre-school.



Please join us at our new Facebook Closed Group.

**TOYS** : Where possible can we ask that children do not bring toys into pre-school from home. It can cause a lot of distress to the children if they get lost. If they are brought in can you ensure that they are left in the children's bags.

### Special Requests:

Late arrivals and late collections can cause distress to the children. Please be prompt when dropping off/picking up your child and please ensure you inform us of any new contact numbers etc for your child's records – particularly emergency contacts and any dietary/allergy needs your child has.

## UNIFORM

Please fill out an order form, which can be found in the foyer. We also have a selection of second hand uniform that we sell for **half price**.

### Price List:

T-shirt	£5.00
Polo Shirt	£7.00
Sweatshirt	£10.00
Fleece	£12.00
Book Bag	£5.00

**TERM DATES 2018/2019:**

Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Term
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Stepping Stones Nativities
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> December-Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Start of New Spring Term
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of Half Term
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of New Half Term
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of Term
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup>, Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; Fri 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Extra Sessions (to be booked and payable in advance – see note on front page)</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Start of Summer Term
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	End of Half Term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Start of New Half Term
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Stepping Stones Hyde Hall Visit (details to follow)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of Summer Term
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Stepping Stones Leavers Parties

**PLEASE NOTE A FULL ACADEMIC YEAR CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND UNDER “NEWSLETTERS” ON OUR WEBSITE**

We would to like to wish all our children, parents and carers  
a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

