

South Woodham Pre School



Autumn Newsletter : October 2019

LOOKING BACK.....

Over the last half term our new children have settled in well and have had lots of fun at pre-school.

They have all been practicing our “Emergency Lockdown Procedure” which we are required to practice in case of an intruder. We do this by playing our “Quiet Game” – we close the blinds, turn off the lights and all the children and staff hide under the tables. A member of staff then comes into the room and walks around and the children have to stay really still and quiet until the staff member has left the room. All the children have done so well and really love playing our new game.

They have enjoyed our role play area set up as kitchen, a café, a campsite, a home, a farm shop and a witch’s cave. If any parents have a job or hobby you think would interest the children and would be willing to come in and talk to the children please let us know.

At Stepping Stones the children have enjoyed lots of fun activities this half term. Their creative work has included free collage, racing car painting, junk modeling, sponge painting, marble painting, harvest festival sunflowers and bubble wrap painting. Their investigative work has included using compare bears, exploring a snake skin, textures, gloop, floating and sinking, magnets and wizards brew.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who brought in donations during Harvest Week for our local food bank. We received a large number of goods which were very much appreciated when delivered this week.

We give a warm welcome to our new starters after half term: Darcey, Harrison, Jennifer, Lucas and Max.

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM:

October Half Term Scavenger Hunt

Your child has been given a scavenger hunt during the last week of term for them to complete over the half term holiday. We would love to see as many back after the holiday for the children to talk to their friends about and display in the main room.

Children in Need Week – 11th-15th November

We encourage the children to wear anything red, yellow or spotty and make a donation to Children in Need.

Christmas Bazaar & Family Photographs – Saturday 23rd November

We will be holding a Christmas Bazaar here at pre-school from 9am-1pm and would love for you all to come along. The photographer will be here too to take individual or family photos. There will be a list put up in the foyer after the half term holidays for you to book a time slot.

Cake Donations for our Christmas Bazaar cake stall

We would be delighted to receive any cake donations from our lovely parents/carers for our cake stall during the week of 18th November. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Christmas Jumper Week 16th-20th December

We encourage the children to wear their favourite Christmas jumper, t-shirt or dress to pre-school all week to round off the end of term.

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

NON-PAYMENT OF FEES:

IF FEES ARE NOT PAID PROMPTLY THE COMMITTEE WILL NOW BE PUTTING A FREEZE ON “PAID FOR” SESSIONS AND ANY “EXTRAS” THAT ARE NOT COVERED BY FUNDING I.E. LUNCHES. PLEASE BE AWARE AS A CHARITY WE RELY ON PROMPT PAYMENT OF FEES TO ALLOW US TO MEET ALL OF OUR FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS.

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.

STAFF TRAINING THIS HALF TERM

Level 3 Diploma For The Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) – Nicky & Karen

Improving Children’s Learning Through Play Level 2 – Karen

Effective First Aid Management in the Setting Level 2 – Karen

Health & Safety in Early Years – Part 1 & 2 - Nicole

Understanding & Addressing Behaviour - Nicole

Infection Prevention & Control Level 2 - Nicole

Sustained Shared Thinking Level 2 – Nicole

Health & Safety in the Workplace - Tracey

GIFTING AND SELLING 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 office. This enables us to keep check of our registers.

Some basic rules :

- Only funded sessions can only be taken by a funded child.
- If your child is already attending a main room session they will not be able to swap to Stepping Stones. These can only be taken up if your child is not already on session in the main room that day.

OUR FAMILY BOARD:

We continue to use 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.

ADVENTURE ISLAND WRISTBANDS

Quick reminder we have Adventure Island wristbands on sale at £12.00 each for green and red wristbands and £16.00 for blue bands. You can purchase these from the office at pre-school during term time or alternatively outside of pre-school hours through our Facebook Closed Group.

NUMBER FOR REPORTING ABSENCES: 01245 425746

Could we please ask that any absences, swapping of sessions or gifting of sessions be made either by email to management@southwoodhampreschool.co.uk or by leaving a voicemail message on the landline.

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 since last newsletter:-

Treasure Boxes : £241.55

Thank you to everyone who donated food and toiletry items to South Woodham Food Bank during our Harvest Week – all donations were dropped off this last week of term and were gratefully received.

Many thanks for your continued support. Our fundraising makes a huge difference to the toys and resources we can provide for the children.

SICKNESS/DIARRHOEA:

Please allow 48 hours from the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea before your child returns to pre-school.

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 chocolates 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

SNACK DURING SESSION NEXT HALF TERM:-

	<u>Main Room</u>	<u>Stepping Stones</u>
Week 1	- Toast & toppings	Pancakes
Week 2	- Pancakes	Toast & toppings
Week 3	- Crackers & toppings & bananas	Breadsticks & raisins
Week 4	- Breadsticks & raisins	Crackers & toppings & bananas
Week 5	- Selection of fruit	Selection of fruit
Week 6	- Use up from previous weeks	->
Week 7	- Party Food	Party Food

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.

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>

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 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.

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 50p per item.

Price List:

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

TERM DATES:

Fri 25 th October	End of Half Term
Mon 28 th Oct – Fri 1 st Nov	October Half Term Holidays
Mon 4 th November	Start of New Half Term
Mon 11 th -15 th November	Children In Need Week
Sat 23 rd November	Christmas Bazaar & Family Photos
Mon 16 th -Fri 20 th December	Christmas Jumper Week
Thurs 19 th December	Last Day of Term
Fri 20 th December	Stepping Stones Nativities
Mon 23 rd Dec- Fri 3 rd Jan 2020	Christmas Holidays
Mon 6 th January	Start of Spring Term
Fri 14 th February	Last Day of Term
Mon 24 th February	Start of New Half Term
Fri 3 rd April	Last Day of Term
Mon 6 th -Fri 17 th April	Easter Holidays
Mon 20 th April	Start of Summer Term
Fri 8 th May	May Bank Holiday
Fri 22 nd May	End of Half Term
Mon 25 th -Fri 29 th May	Whitsun Holidays
Mon 1 st June	Start of New Half Term
Weds 24 th June	Stepping Stones Hyde Hall Trip
Thurs 16 th July	Last Day of Term
Fri 17 th July	Stepping Stones Graduation

Wishing everyone a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing you back on Monday 4th November!

