**South Woodham Pre School**

**Autumn Newsletter : February 2020**

**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 enjoyed our role play area set up as an ice home, a kitchen, a hospital, a café and a garage. 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 finger painting, making pictures with shapes, free collage, still life painting and salt painting. Their investigative work has included playing “Kim’s Game”, feely bag, making rain, smell tests, making cheese straws and matching numeral to quantities.

We give a warm welcome to our new starters after the half term: Amelia-Rose, Mia, Rae and Stanley.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM:**

**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 “G”.

**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 website and Facebook page.

**EASTER BONNET COMPETITION (30TH MARCH – 3RD APRIL)**

During the week running up to the Easter holidays we will be holding our “Easter Bonnet Competition”whereby we encourage the children to make an Easter Bonnet at home (this could be making one from scratch or decorating a hat you may already have). The children will then be able to show their creations to the staff and their friends. There will be a prize for the winners. We asked for a donation of £1.00 to enter the competition.

**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.**

**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.

**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.

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:-

Cake Sale – To be confirmed.

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:-**

Week 1 - Cereal – Rice Krispies and Cheerios

Week 2 - Biscuits

Week 3 - Apples and Raisins

Week 4 - Breadsticks & Cucumber

Week 5 - Yoghurt

Week 6 - Use up from previous weeks

**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.

**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**](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](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk) which gives guidance to parents about the ages/stages of a child’s speech development.

**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***

There has been a small increase to our prices from January 2020.

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 | £5.50 |
| Polo Shirt | £7.50 |
| Sweatshirt | £10.50 |
| Fleece | £12.50 |
| Book Bag | £5.00 |

**TERM DATES:**

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| --- | --- |
| Fri 14th February | Last Day of Term |
| Mon 24th February | Start of New Half Term |
| Fri 3rd April | Last Day of Term |
| Mon 6th-Fri 17th April | Easter Holidays |
| Mon 20th April | Start of Summer Term |
| Thurs 30th April | Pre-School Photographs for all children |
| Fri 8th May | May Bank Holiday |
| Mon 11th+ Tues 12th May | Pre-School Closed for Staff Training |
| Fri 22nd May | End of Half Term |
| Mon 25th-Fri 29th May | Whitsun Holidays |
| Mon 1st June | Start of New Half Term |
| Thurs 4th June | Stepping Stones Graduation Photographs\* |
| Weds 24th June | Stepping Stones Hyde Hall Trip \*\* |
| Thurs 16th July | Last Day of Term |
| Fri 17tt July | Stepping Stones Graduation |

\* These are for Stepping Stones children only. All children who attend on the day will have their photographs taken. A list will be put up in the foyer nearer the time for any child who does not normally attend on a Thursday to book a slot to come in to have their photograph taken.

\*\* Full details of timings will be sent out nearer the time.

Wishing everyone a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing you back on Monday 24th February!

