**South Woodham Pre School**

**Autumn Newsletter : October 2020**

**LOOKING BACK…..**

It has been lovely to welcome back our children this term and also all our new starters. The children have settled well.

They have enjoyed our role play area set up as a kitchen, a construction site, a café, a nursery, a campsite, a farm shop and a witches cave.

At Stepping Stones the children have enjoyed exploring the new environment and getting to know the new routine. They have enjoyed lots of fun activities this half term. Their creative work has included junk modelling, sponge painting, string painting, drawing/collaging rainbows, leaf rubbings, practicising their cutting skills and marble painting. Their investigative work has included weighing, feely bag, gloop, floating and sinking, exploring magnets and wizards brew.

As Donna Berry leaves us after being on long term sick leave – we wish her all the very best of luck and thank her for all her hard work here at pre-school .

We give a warm welcome to our new starters after half term: Archie, Arthur, Blake, Bliss, Daisy, Jack, Lyra, Mya, Olivia, Oregan-Macy and Spencer.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM:**

**Pre-school Drop off Times**

After half term we will be returning to our normal drop off times with the Main Room and Stepping Stones both at 8.50am. We will continue allowing one parent in at a time with their child to assist with social distancing. We continue to look at all our procedures and make changes where we feel necessary based on guidance received. Due to cleaning and potential cross contamination the children are still not be able to bring into pre-school in any soft toys, blankets etc at this current time.

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.

**Please ensure your child brings in their own “named” sports bottle – this has worked well this half term and ensure children only drink from their own bottle.**

**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.**

**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.

**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.

STAFF TRAINING THIS TERM:

Level 3 Paediatric First Aid – all staff

Level 2 Safeguarding – Natalie, Nicky and Karen.

Level 2 Food & Hygiene – Tracey

Level 2 Heath & Safety – Tracey

**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 £13.00 each for green and red wristbands and £17.00 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 be made either by email to management@southwoodhampreschool.co.uk or by leaving a voicemail message on the landline.

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 and no NUTS. 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

**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.

***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-£1 per item.

**Price List:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| T-shirt | £5.50 |
| Polo Shirt | £7.50 |
| Sweatshirt | £10.50 |
| Fleece | £12.50 |
| Book Bag | £5.50 |
| Cap | £5.50 |

**TERM DATES:**

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| --- | --- |
| Fri 23rd October | Last Day of Half Term |
| Mon 26th-Fri 30th October | Half Term Holidays |
| Mon 2nd November | Start of New Half Term |
| Mon 14th December | Christmas Raffle Draw \* |
| Tues 15th December | Last Day of Term |
| Weds 16th December | Stepping Stones Christmas Parties \*\* |
| Fri 17th-Fri 1st Jan 2021 | Christmas Holidays |
| Mon 4th Jan 2021 | Staff Training Day - Closed |
| Tues 5th Jan | Start of New Term |
| Fri 12th Feb | Last Day of Half Term |
| Mon 15th- Fri 19th Feb | Half Term Holidays |
| Mon 22nd Feb | Start of new Half Term |
| Fri 26th March  | Last Day of Half Term |
| Mon 29th – Fri 9th April | Easter Holidays |
| Mon 12th April | Start of New Term |
| Tues 20th April | All children’s photographs \*\* |
| Mon 3rd May | Bank Holiday |
| Mon 17th-Fri 21st May | Sponsored Toddle week \*\* |
| Fri 28th May | Last Day of Half Term |
| Mon 31st-Fri 4th June | Half Term Holidays |
| Mon 7th June | Start of New Half Term |
| Thurs 17th June | Stepping Stones Graduation Photographs \*\* |
| Thurs 15th July | Last Day of Term |
| Fri 16th July  | Stepping Stones Graduations |

 \* We will be asking for any donations during the run up to our raffle.

\*\* More details will be sent out nearer the time.

Wishing everyone a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you back on Monday 2nd November!

