**South Woodham Pre School**

**Autumn Newsletter : December 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 a kitchen, a hairdressers, a vets, a hospital and Santa’s workshop.

At Stepping Stones the children have enjoyed lots of fun activities this half term. Their creative work has included firework painting, making pasta necklaces/bracelets, potato printing, making clay hedgehogs, gingerbread decorating and making Christmas mittens. Their investigative work has included exploring magnets, computer work, playing “Kim’s game”, being a “little scientist”, sewing, making Christmas cookies and Christmas finger cards.

We give a warm welcome to our new starters after half term: Amelia, Austin, Axel, Charlie, Hugo, Jack, Jesse, Isobel, Matilda and Sienna C and Sienna G.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM:**

**Pre-school Drop off Times**

We will continue allowing only 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 and ensures children only drink from their own bottle.**

**Pre-school Pick up Times**

There have been a parents who have asked to collect their children a little earlier than 3pm over the last term and we have accommodated this but it has caused disruption to the end of day for the other children. Therefore, any children that require picking up before the end of session we will have two pick up times of either 2.45pm or 3pm. **This needs to be pre-arranged as these children will be ready to leave at 2.45pm**. **Any children leaving early will need to be collected promptly at 2.45pm**. This will be reviewed and if it causes more disruption then we may need to alter this.

**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.**

 Please join us at our new Facebook Closed Group.

**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.

FUNDRAISING THIS HALF TERM:-

Half Term Scavenger Hunt - £46.00

Children in Need - £57.11

Christmas Raffle - £377

STAFF TRAINING THIS TERM:

Level 3 Paediatric First Aid – Tracey

Level 2 Safeguarding – Nicky & Karen

**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.

***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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| --- | --- |
| 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 |
| Mon 1st-5th Feb | Sponsored Bounce Week \* |
| 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 |

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

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 Tuesday 5th January 2021

