**South Woodham Pre School**

**Summer Newsletter : May 2021**

**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 construction site, a restaurant, a campsite, a baby centre, a shop, a hairdressers and kitchen. We have had activities based around shape sponge painting, tracing shapes, numbers and lines, practicing our cutting skills, stencils, collaging, junk modelling and designing superhero masks.

At Stepping Stones the children have enjoyed lots of fun activities this half term. Their creative work has included butterfly painting, ‘chick’ fork painting, making a frog, still life painting, cherry blossom art and finger painting our names. Their investigative work has included learning about the lifecycles of butterflies, chickens and frogs, planting sunflower seeds, learning how to dress/undress in P.E. kits and carrying school trays in readiness for starting “big” school in September.

All the children really enjoyed our Sponsored Bounce with lots of bouncy fun! We would like to send a massive thank you for your support – we were delighted to raise £2,123.90. We are going to use this money to renovate our outside play area. We really do appreciate all of your donations.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM:**

**Outstanding Fees for this Term:**

June fees should be paid as normal i.e. during the first week back after half term. We have set a cut-off date for all fees for July to be paid by Friday 2nd July latest in order for us to close our accounts for this year. We would like to send our appreciation to everyone who has settled their accounts in advance. Many thanks.

**Stepping Stones**

We will be continuing with our letter of the week. When we return we will be on letter “M.”

**Graduation Photographs** – **Thursday 17th June** every Stepping Stones child who attends on a Thursday will have their photograph taken. Emails have been sent out to the parents of each child who does not attend to offer a time slot to come in for their photograph if wanted.

**Graduation Day** **– Friday 16th July**. We are hoping to be able to have all our parents into preschool for our Stepping Stones graduation. More information will be sent out after the Government announcement on 21st June with exact arrangements/plans but for your diaries the Stepping Stones children will be split into groups (to allow us for correct numbers) and these will be held in the morning.

**NOTE : THE CHILDREN WILL NOT NEED THEIR P.E. KITS THIS HALF TERM**

**Tapestry Discs.** Emails will be sent out after half term asking if you would like your child’s Tapestry Learning Journal downloaded onto a disc. Payment will need to be made by Friday 2nd July (latest) and the cost will be £5.00 by BACS.

**Friday 9th – Thursday 15th July** is our Princess and Pirates week. We encourage the children to dress up in their favourite princess or pirate outfits for lots of fun activities such as walking the plank and fishing for treasure.

After half term your child will bring home a special “pirate box” which we hope they will fill with any spare pennies.

**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.

Fundraising since last newsletter:-

£85.30 – Red Nose Day

£2,123.90 - Sponsored Bounce

**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.

**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 £16.00 each. 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.

**SNACK DURING SESSION NEXT HALF TERM:-**

Week 1 - Crispbread & Cucumber

Week 2 - Breadsticks & Apples

Week 3 - Yoghurts

Week 4 - Crackers & Raisins

Week 5 - Crispbread & Bananas

Week 6 - Party Food

**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.

**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:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 - morning | Stepping Stones Graduation |
| Monday 6th September | Start of New Autumn Term |
| Thursday 21st October | Last Day of Half Term |
| Friday 22nd October | Staff Training Day – Closed |
| Mon 25th-29th October | Half Term Holidays |
| Mon 1st November | Start of new Half Term |
| Thurs 16th December | Last Day of Term |
| Fri 17th December | Stepping Stones Nativities \* |
| Mon 20th Dec – Mon 3rd January 2022 | Christmas Holidays |
| Tues 4th January  | Staff Training Day – Closed |
| Weds 5th January | Start of New Spring Term |
| Fri 11th February | Last Day of Half Term |
| Mon 14th- 22nd February | Half Term Holidays |
| Wednesday 23rd February | Start of New Half Term |
| Tuesday 29th March | Last Day of Term |
| Wed 30th March – 18th April | Easter Holidays |
| Tues 19th April | Start of Summer Term |
| Thurs 26th May | Last Day of Half Term |

\*more details will be given nearer the time.

Wishing everyone a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing you back on Monday 7th June !

