**South Woodham Pre School**

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**Summer Newsletter : May 2022**

**LOOKING BACK…..**

Over the last half term our children have had lots of fun at pre-school.

They have enjoyed our role play area set up as a hairdressers, a home/kitchen and a construction site. We have had activities including stencil painting, junk modelling, sponge painting, practicing our scissor control, making crowns to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

At Stepping Stones the children have enjoyed lots of fun activities this half term. Their creative work has included drawing faces and pictures of their families, butterfly painting, making a frog handprint, chick painting and creating a flower. Their investigative work has included exploring their senses, sequencing, learning about lifecycles of a butterfly, a frog, a chicken and a plant as well as practicing changing for P.E. and carrying their dinner trays in readiness for school.

Thank you to everyone who donated and/or bought cakes at our cake sale this week. It was a fantastic turn out and a great job was done by our Committee with all the arranging.

REMINDER : The Committee are running a sweet tombola stall at the Village Hall Queen’s Jubilee Fete on Thursday 2nd June. It would be lovely to see you there. If you have any last minute donations they can be brought along to the stall on the day.

We would just like to thank you for the lovely comments we have received from the Annual Questionnaires that have been returned. Many thanks for all your support of your preschool.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM:**

**Stepping Stones:**

We are continuing with our “Letter of the Week”. The children are encouraged to bring in something (i.e. small toy or object) beginning with the letter we are focusing on. After half term it will be “Q”.

**Tuesday 14th June** – **Stepping Stones Graduation photographs** will be taken. Anyone not attending on a Tuesday have been emailed to book a slot to bring their child into preschool to have their photograph taken if they wish.

**Wednesday 22nd June** **– Stepping Stones Educational Trip to Hyde Hall**. Everyone should now have been contacted and confirmed their time.

**Sponsored Toddle – Monday 27th June – Friday 1st July** – This will be on all week so every child is able to take part. You will receive your sponsor form after the half term break.

**Wednesday 20th July – Last Day of Term.**

**Thursday 21st July – Stepping Stones Graduations**. More details to follow.

**Friday 22nd July – Staff Training Day**.

**Reminder - Fee Increases from September 2022:**

From September our lunch club fee will increase by 30p to £5.30 and our hourly session rate will increase from £4.40 to £4.50. We always try to keep our costs as low as possible however, due to our financial commitments this has forced an increase. We thank you for your understanding.

**Late Pick Up!**

**Can we please ask that you are prompt to collect your children at the end of session. This causes distress to the children who are waiting and also can affect the numbers of children we have on the premises especially in the afternoon when we are already full and children aren’t collected on time. We thank you for your co-operation and understanding.**

Fundraising since last newsletter:-

£69.59 – Commission from Preschool Christmas Photographs

£40.70 – Easter Scavenger Hunt

£1,375.70 - Sponsored Bounce

£217.06 - Gift Aid from Sponsored Bounce

Jubilee Cake Sale – To be confirmed.

Jubilee Sweet Tombola – To be confirmed.

We would like to thank Mrs Schuller for kindly arranging a cake sale held at her workplace and fundraising £22.00 for us. It was very much appreciated.

**PACKED LUNCHES**

**Can we please draw parents’ attention to the guidelines set out for packed lunches – if you send grapes or large blueberries in for your child please ensure they are cut length ways to avoid choking. 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 named sports style bottle. Many thanks for your support.**

**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.

**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](mailto: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/diarrhea before your child returns to pre-school.

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

Week 1 - Crackers & Cucumber

Week 2 - Crispbread & Apples

Week 3 - Breadsticks & Raisins

Week 4 - Toast & Toppings

Week 5 - Crackers & Bananas

Week 6 - Use up from previous weeks

Week 7 - 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.**

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 or email into the office with your order.

**Price List:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| T-shirt | £5.80 |
| Polo Shirt | £7.80 |
| Sweatshirt | £10.50 |
| Fleece | £13.00 |
| Book Bag | £5.50 |
| Cap | £5.50 |

***SECOND HAND UNIFORM***

We have a selection of second hand uniform that we sell for 50p each for t-shirts and polo shirts and £1.00 each for sweatshirts and fleeces.

**TERM DATES:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Fri 27th May 2022 | Last Day of Half Term |
| Tues 14th June | Stepping Stones Graduation Photographs \* |
| Weds 22nd June | Stepping Stones outing to Hyde Hall |
| Mon 27th June – Fri 1st July | Sponsored Toddle Week \* |
| Weds 20th July | Last Day of Summer Term |
| Thurs 21st July | Stepping Stones Graduations |
| Fri 22nd July | Staff Training Day |
| Mon 25th July – Fri 2nd Sept | Summer Holidays |
| Mon 5th Sept | Staff Training Day |
| Tues 6th Sept | Start of Autumn Term |
| Fri 21st Oct | Last Day of Half Term |
| Mon 24th – Fri 28th Oct | Half Term Holiday |
| Mon 31st Oct | Start of New Half Term |
| Thurs 15th Dec | Last Day of Term |
| Fri 16th Dec | Stepping Stones Nativities \* |
| Mon 19th Dec – Fri 6th Jan 2023 | Christmas Holidays |
| Mon 9th Jan | Start of Spring Term |
| Fri 10th Feb | Last Day of Half Term |
| Mon 13th – Fri 17th Feb | Half Term Holidays |
| Mon 20th Feb | Staff Training Day |
| Tues 21st Feb | Start of New Half Term |
| Fri 31st March | Last Day of Term |
| Mon 3rd – Fri 14th April | Easter Holidays |
| Mon 17th April | Start of Summer Term |

\*Details will be sent out nearer the time.

We would to like to wish all our children, parents and carers

a lovely half term.

We look forward to seeing you all back on

Monday 6th June 2022

