**South Woodham Pre School**

**Summer Newsletter : December 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 kitchen, baby room, doctors surgery and Santa’s workshop.

At Stepping Stones the children have enjoyed lots of fun activities this half term. Their creative work has included splatter painting, handprint poppies, making invitations for our Christmas nativity, making Christmas jumpers, stockings and decorations. Their investigative work has included Kim’s game, feely bag, “Little Scientists” , baking Christmas cookies, making pasta necklaces and practicing our cutting skills.

We look forward to welcoming our new starters after half term : Arabella, Charlie, Elsie-Mae, Marnie, Penny and Seb.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM:**

**Sponsored Bounce Week (30th January – 3rd February 2023)**

**We will be holding this fundraising event all week. Sponsor forms will be sent home at the beginning of term. If applicable please tick the “gift aid” box as this brings in extra money for our preschool. Thank you in advance for your continued support of preschool.**

**Festivals**

**If there are any special festivals that your family celebrate throughout the year we would love to hear about them. Please let a member of staff know and we will include this within our learning.**

**Illness**

**Can we also remind parents/carers that if you need to give your child Calpol before coming into preschool as your child is suffering from a temperature please keep them at home. We understand your need for childcare however, with so many different infections around this helps with the spread and also from any staff shortages due to illness. Also, if your child has been given antibiotics our policy is for them to not attend preschool for 48 hours in case of a reaction and also to avoid the spread to others. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.**

**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.**

**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:-

October Half Term Scavenger Hunt - £40.00

Children in Need - £21.50

Christmas Mini-Bazaar and Cake Sale - £338.23

Christmas Raffle - £159.00

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARENTS/CARERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR**

**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.**

 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 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 - Yoghurt

Week 2 - Crackers & Apples

Week 3 - Breadsticks & Cucumber

Week 4 - Crispbread & Raisins

Week 5 - 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.

**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

Ten Steps for Healthy Toddlers : <https://infantandtoddlerforum.org/media/upload/pdf-downloads/HR_toddler_booklet_green.pdf>

**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, £1.00 each for sweatshirts and £2.00 for fleeces.

**TERM DATES:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |
| Mon 30th Jan – Fri 3rd Feb | Sponsored Bounce Week \* |
| 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 |
| Thurs 18th May | Stepping Stones Trip to Hyde Hall \* |
| Fri 26th May | Last Day of Half Term |
| Mon 29th – Fri 2nd June | Half Term Holiday |
| Mon 5th June | Start of New Half Term |
| Mon 19th – Fri 23rd June | Sponsored Toddle Event |

\*Details will be sent out nearer the time.

We would 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 Monday 9th January 2023

