**South Woodham Preschool**

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**Spring Newsletter : March 2023**

**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 and a construction site.

At Stepping Stones the children have enjoyed lots of fun activities this half term. Their creative work has included creating cherry blossom trees, our display for the library, still life painting, making bunnies and easter eggs. Their investigative work has included exploring matching and sequencing, making bird feeders, hot and cold animals from around the world, blowing, sewing and making Easter nests.

We have been creating our display for South Woodham Library this last half term. Make sure you pop along with your child after the Easter holidays to see all their wonderful work.

We look forward to welcoming our new starters after half term : Aiyla, Amaya, Arlo, Blake, Meadow, Nabeelah & Summer.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM:**

**Stepping Stones: P.E. KIT**

In readiness for the children starting school in September. For the first three weeks of the next half term we will be practicing our skills getting undressed and dressed for P.E. Could we please ask that all children that attend Stepping Stones sessions please bring in a **“named”** t-shirt, shorts and plimsolls (or trainers they can put on by themselves without laces – as we are encouraging the children to become independent with this) in a bag to every session (unfortunately, we are unable to store these so they will need to be brought in at **every** Stepping Stones session). Many thanks.

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 “K”.

**Reminder : Fee Increases from April 2023:**

From April our hourly fee rate will increase by 50p to £5.00. Also, a small increase to our uniform charges. Lunch Club fees will remain at £5.30. 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.

**Photographer - Tuesday 25th April:**

The photographer will be in taking individual photographs of all the children who attend on a Tuesday. If your child does not attend on a Tuesday there will be an opportunity for you to book a timeslot to bring you child along. You will be contacted after the Easter holidays.

**Friday 26th May - Closed for Staff Training**

**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.**

**Adventure Island Wristbands**

Quick reminder we have Adventure Island wristbands on sale at £17.00.

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.

**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.**

**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/nut products or sesame seeds 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.**

**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:-

Additional Sponsored Bounce donation – £115.00

Sponsored Bounce Gift Aid - £175.42

Red Nose Week - £29.65

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

 Please join us at our 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.

**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 - Yoghurts

Week 2 - Crackers, Cheese & Cucumber

Week 3 - Party Food – King’s Coronation

Week 4 - Breadsticks & Raisins

Week 5 - Crispbreads & Apples

Week 6 - 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 from April 2023:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| T-shirt | £6.00 |
| Polo Shirt | £8.00 |
| Sweatshirt | £11.00 |
| Fleece | £13.50 |
| 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:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Fri 31st March | Last Day of Term |
| Mon 3rd – Fri 14th April | Easter Holidays |
| Mon 17th April | Start of Summer Term |
| Tues 25th April | Photographer in for individual photos \* |
| Mon 1st May | Early May Bank Holiday |
| Mon 8th May | Bank Holiday for Coronation of King Charles |
| Thurs 18th May | Stepping Stones Trip to Hyde Hall \* |
| Thurs 25th May | Last Day of Half Term |
| Fri 26th May | Closed for Staff Safeguarding Training |
| Mon 29th – Fri 2nd June | Half Term Holiday |
| Mon 5th June | Start of New Half Term |
| Mon 19th – Fri 23rd June | Sponsored Toddle Event |
| Tues 20th June | Stepping Stones Graduation Photographs |
| Thurs 20th July | Last Day of Term |
| Fri 21st July | Stepping Stones Graduation Day \* |
| Mon 4th Sept | Closed for Staff First Aid Training |
| Tues 5th Sept | Closed for Staff First Aid Training |
| Fri 20th Oct | Last Day of Half Term |
| Mon 23rd-Fri 27th Oct | Half Term Holidays |
| Mon 30th Oct | Start of New Half Term |
| Thurs 14th Dec | Last Day of Term |
| Fri 15th Dec | Stepping Stones Nativities \* |
| Mon 18th Dec-Fri 5th Jan | Christmas Holidays |
| Mon 8th Jan 2024 | Start of Spring Term |
| Fri 16th Feb | End of Half Term |
| Mon 19th -Fri 23rd Feb | Half Term Holidays |
| Mon 26th Feb | Start of New Half Term |
| Thurs 28th March | Last Day of Term |
| Tues 2nd - Fri 12th April | Easter Holidays |

\*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 17th April 2023

