**South Woodham Preschool**

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**Spring Newsletter : May 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 shop, a castle, a car wash, a mechanic shop and a campsite.

At Stepping Stones the children have enjoyed lots of fun activities this half term. Their creative work has included fork painting a chick, butterfly handprints, painting a flower, frog picture and made rockets along with lots of Coronation activities. Their investigative work has included our germ activity, exploring and learning about the lifecycles of a chicken, butterfly, flower and a frog.

Our Stepping Stones annual trip to Hyde Hall was a great success with all the children and staff having a wonderful day.

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

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:**

**Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 14th June 7.30pm**

We look forward to seeing you at our AGM being held here at preschool.

At 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”.

**Graduation Photographs – Tuesday 20th June:**

The photographer will be in taking graduation photographs of all the Stepping Stones 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.

**Sponsored Toddle – Monday 19th June – Friday 23rd June** – This will be on all week so every child is able to take part. You should have already received your child’s sponsor form.

**Pirates & Princesses Week – Monday 17th– Thursday 20th July:** The children are encouraged to come into preschool dressed up as a pirate or princess. Don’t worry to rush out and buy something new we will have plenty of dressing up for the children to use. The children will be given treasure boxes to fill with “treasure”. Don’t forget to bring back your treasure boxes during this week.

**Last Day of Term – Thursday 20th July**

**Stepping Stones Graduations – Friday 21st July morning:** More details to follow

**July Fee Payments**: The last day for any outstanding monies owed this term has been set at **Tuesday 11th July** in order for us to close our accounts for this academic year. If you are unsure of what you have outstanding on your child’s account please contact the office.

**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.

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:-

Cake Sale – £113.44

Easter Scavenger Hunt - £56.20

**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 - Toast & Toppings

Week 2 - Apples & Crispbread

Week 3 - Breadsticks & Raisins

Week 4 - Crackers & Bananas

Week 5 - Cheese & Cucumber

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

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:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 Graduations \* |
| 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 5th June 2023

