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Charity No. 1060878

Newsletter September 2023

Dear Parents/carers

We hope you all had a lovely summer break. If you have any photos of days out or walks to the park, please pop them onto your child's tapestry. We love seeing them and can print them off to chat about with the children. We would like to welcome our new families to preschool and look forward to being part of your child's early years.

Snack

Due to rising costs, we will be implementing a 50p per day charge for snack, we have tried to provide a healthy snack as part of our provision for as long as possible but are finding the increase in food prices are making it increasingly difficult. We cannot insist that funded children pay - as funding must be completely free, but we ask that all parents contribute. We will invoice parent termly - and any amendments will be made the following term. We understand that the current cost of living crisis is affecting every family but hope that you are all able to support us in this. If anyone would like to discuss this, please speak to Rachael or Cathy.

Early start / early drop off.

Don't forget we still offer early starts from 8.15 am, for the price of £2.50, and early drop off from 8.45am - we ask that this is paid in cash on the day. If you require these services, there is no need to book - just turn up and ring the bell for the staff member to let you in. All other children will be let in by a staff member at 9am.

Illness

It is that time of year when so many coughs, colds and bugs are rife in pre-school. We regularly spray and disinfect during the day but these viruses are often air born. Please do not send your child in if they have a high temperature or unwell. Any sickness and diarrhoea is a strict 48 hours return after the last episode even if you don't think it's a bug.

30 Hours

Please remember to check your codes for parents/carers entitled to 30 hours funding. If you think you may be eligible please look at: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare> to check. The 30 hours funding is only available to 3 and 4 year olds, where parents meet certain criteria. You will be given an eligibility code which must be given to us

at pre-school. Unfortunately, if you miss the deadline as shown on the webpage, you will not be able to claim the additional funding until the following term.

Labelling

Please can we ask you to label coats, wellies, hats, gloves, scarfs and anything else your child may bring in with them. It takes such a long time to track down missing items of clothing or coats so it would be great if you could help us out. Also label bags and lunchbags, bottles etc. Please do not send anything in that is valuable or that may cause distress if it goes missing. Thank you.

Messy play

Please do not send your child in with their best coat or best clothes. We offer messy play inside and out and children will get messy during their time here. It is so important to let children express their creative skills and experiment with mud and paint, the children often walk away from an activity if we insist on then wearing an apron!

We will shortly be giving information on preschool Tshirts that can be purchased if preferred.

Pupil Premium

When your child is funded, we need to have a completed funding form to claim the money from the government (parents will be invoiced unless a completed form is returned) If your child is eligible to pupil premium, we will discuss this with you and the best way this additional funding can be used to support your child.

Healthy eating

We do promote healthy eating and making good choices, occasionally we may ice biscuits or make cakes which seem to be a favourite with pre-school children. There is always great information on the following website to encourage healthy choices and guidance on what sorts of food groups we need.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-eatwell-guide>

We also recommend that lunch boxes contain low fat and nutritious food. We ask that you do not send in sweets and chocolate or food that is very high in fat. A reminder that all sausages, cherry tomatoes, grapes etc are cut top to bottom (not around the middle)Spoons must be provided if they are needed, as we do not have any more spares to provide. Please also refer to the lunchbox leaflet that is in this year's parent information pack .

Dates for your Diary

Friday 22nd september

stay and play from 2pm

Friday 27th October

Halloween party -parents welcome from 2pm

November 15th

individual preschool photos

Friday 24th November

stay and play from 2pm

15th December

Christmas party - parents welcome from 2pm

Please see your parent packs for further dates