

# Newsletter

## May 2013



Dear Parents,

As I write this newsletter it seems that summer is finally on its way! Welcome, to all our new parents and children who have joined us at Easter, it is lovely to meet some new faces and of course see some younger siblings starting pre-school. We are also into the last few weeks of term for our Plus children who will be leaving us in July to move onto big school.

We have lots of fun activities planned over the coming weeks, fingers crossed the lovely weather is here to stay so we can get outside in the play area and allotment.



**\*\* As ever please take a minute to read this newsletter and also the e-mails I send out with information for parents, it really does make the pre-school day run smoother, so we can spend more time with the children, if all parents are aware of any notices.\*\***

### THE PRESCHOOL TEAM

#### THE STAFF

**Manager/SENCO** - Heather Clarke

**Deputy/Health and Safety Officer** – Rita Attwell

**Supervisor/Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer** – Wendy Lewis

**Assistants** – Lisa Sims, Maria Wilson, Sarah Naylor, Judith Michell,

Karen Ward, Kirsten Turner, Katy Warran, Karen Edwards

Carol Wadey and Theresa Parsons

**Admin Assistant** – Lisa Taylor

**Bank Staff** – Cherrylyn Adlam

#### THE PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Chairperson** – James Waters

**Treasurer** – Amy Trice

**Secretary** – Claire Copleston

Clare Gibby

Karen Duneclyft

Julie Smart

### An Easter Thank You!



Thank you to all our families who entered the Easter Bonnet competition. Once again there were some great entries and judging was not easy. The daily winners were chosen by a different member of staff each day and two students with us on work experience. Judging the overall winners was left to Heather and not an easy task at all. Well done to everyone who took part.

The children had a lot of fun posting letters to the Easter Bunny before the school holidays and from the stories they told us when they returned it certainly sounds as though the Easter Bunny was very busy in the village this year!

The sun has finally put her hat on and come out to play and hopefully when you read this newsletter the sun is still here. The children and staff enjoy being outside in the warm weather but it is important to remember we need to take precautions to keep the children safe and protected from the sun.

**\*\* PLEASE HELP US STAY SAFE IN THE SUN \*\***

*I am sun safe all day long ee ii ee ii oo  
I wear a hat to shade my face ee ii ee ii oo  
With a floppy hat here, and a floppy hat there  
Here a hat, there a hat, everywhere a floppy hat,  
I am sun safe all day long ee ii ee ii oo*



## Sun Hats, Sun Cream & Shoes



All children **MUST** wear a sun hat when playing outside in the sun. Please make sure that you put a **NAMED** sun hat on the stage at the beginning of all preschool sessions in the main hall and in the basket at the beginning of all plus sessions.

Children also need to have their skin protected from the sun. Please make sure that you have applied sun cream before your child comes to preschool. There are some very good all day protection sun creams on the market. If your child is allergic to sun cream please make sure that their skin is protected with light clothing.

Please also remember our shoe policy for the summer months. **ALL CHILDREN NEED TO WEAR FULLY ENCLOSED SHOES.** There are to be no open-toed sandals, croc shoes or flip flops. These shoes are not suitable when climbing, running or playing outside. Preschool Staff also adhere to our shoe policy.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As some of you will already remember, Tim Rouse comes into pre-school to take informal black and white photographs of the children, usually in June. Tim has been doing this for a number of years and travels up from the West Country where he moved a few years ago. Sadly Tim phoned with the devastating news that he lost his home in a house fire, along with his photography business. However, Tim hopes to be back next year and we wish him all the best, and hope he is up and running again as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we are looking into other photographers that may be able to offer the same service as Tim, for this year only.

#### ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK ~ Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June

**“Wilberforce” our friendly pre-school mascot, is a very forgetful bear. Each day during this week he will lose his jar of honey in all kinds of places and needs help from the preschool children to find it!**

For our annual sponsored walk children will follow a trail of Bees that will lead to the jar of honey. He is a very forgetful bear and will lose the honey more than once. All children will help ‘Wilberforce’ during one of their sessions that they attend that week.

A sponsor form will be sent home, so that if you wish, you can collect sponsors during half term. Monies raised by children in the plus group will go towards the entertainer for their Leaver’s Graduation Ceremony and gifts. Monies raised by children in the pre-school groups will go towards new role play resources.

***As a charity, we rely on parents’ support for our fundraising activities so that we are able to continue the ‘Outstanding’ care and education we offer all children attending our pre-school.***

#### DAD’S / GRANDDAD’S ONLY WEEK ~ Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June



To celebrate Father’s Day on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June we would like to invite all dads and granddads to join us at pre-school. Come in and play with your child or grandchild.

Do you have a toy from your childhood that you would like to show the children? Do you have a hobby to share with the children? Perhaps you are a policeman, fireman, pilot, bus driver, doctor or nurse. The children would love to hear about the work that you do.

Come and see how much fun the children have! Have you ever played in jelly, used shaving foam for anything other than to shave, or gone to the moon in a rocket?

Book your place now. It can be for the whole session or for an hour or two.

Dads and Granddads who have visited us before have found it very rewarding. Our children grow up very quickly and these precious times can never be recaptured. If you cannot come in during this particular week you are welcome as always to visit at anytime.

Mums and grandmas you too are welcome to join us during the year. Please speak to staff today and book a session.

**\*\* Come and share some precious moments with your child doing activities you may not do at home! \*\***

## PARENT CONSULTATIONS

You may remember in February, we sent parents a questionnaire with the newsletter. One of the questions was how many parent consultations would you like to see? Sadly the response rate wasn't very high, however, we feel it is very important that you have updates on your child's progress and share their learning journal.

We will shortly be offering consultations to all parents starting with the children due to start school in September. These consultations will have to take place on Wednesday afternoons which we appreciate isn't ideal for all families; however, unfortunately the village hall is booked every evening until 7.30pm at the earliest. It would be too late to start the consultations after 7.30pm when we need to see over 90 families. Further details and dates will follow.

## PARENT INPUT ~ YOUR CHILD'S "NEXT STEPS"

Every 6-8 weeks staff send home 'Next Steps' planning sheets for their key children. **We need you to complete the parent section, sign and return to preschool.** We are committed to ensuring each child learns in the way that suits them best and we can only do this with your input too. A copy of each "Next Steps" is kept in your child's Learning Journal which will go onto big school with them; it is nice for their future reception teachers to see input from both pre-school staff and parents.

If there is a particular reason why you have not been returning them perhaps you could send Heather an e-mail so that we can review how we share the planning and work in partnership with you. Every child is unique, have different interests and ways of learning.

## END OF TERM

The last day of term will be **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July**. The Graduation Ceremony for our leavers will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Further details will follow. If your child is not leaving in July and usually attends a Friday pre-school session we will aim to offer you a replacement session which may possibly be an afternoon session.



### Can you help us with any of the following?

Plain paper for painting and drawing  
Plain or coloured card  
Envelopes for role play in the post office

Thank You!

## YOUR VIEWS COUNT ~ Lunch Link

If your child will still be with us in September we would like your views on a lunch link. A lunch link would mean that your child could attend a morning session stay for the lunch link and then go home at 1.00pm. Parents that have already requested a morning and afternoon session on the same day could then leave their child all day. Parents would supply a packed lunch (following our guidelines regarding allergies) and pay a fee for this extra service. A questionnaire will be sent out with your child's September sessions next week. Please note that we are in the very early stages of planning for a lunch link.

## E-mail

[southwaterpreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:southwaterpreschool@hotmail.co.uk)

**Web site address – CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW**

[www.southwaterpreschool.org](http://www.southwaterpreschool.org)

## Heather Clarke

Pre-School Manager

On behalf of The Preschool Team

**Telephone: (01403) 733 954 (during session times)**

**Registered Charity Number. 1027293**