

Registered charity 1148519



Rotherfield Village Pre-School
Rotherfield Recreation Ground
North Street, Rotherfield. TN6 3LX

01892 853207
office@rotherfieldpre-school.co.uk
www.rotherfieldpre-school.co.uk



T'was the night before...

December dates

Raffle tickets go on sale! Be sure to get yours before the draw on 16th.

2 Dec Deadline for nativity photos. Don't miss out – send in your nativity costumes!

6 Dec: Charity evening £2 a ticket, including a Wreath making workshop, £20 a ticket.

14/15 Dec: Cake stall at pickup time – stock up on delicious treats!

16 Dec: Nativity at the church 1.30pm Meet Father Christmas and enjoy tea or coffee with a mince pie and celebrate Christmas with all the team!

16 Dec - End of term

Mon 9 Jan - Start of Term 3



The Nativity

Our Nativity will be on Friday 16th December 1.30pm at St. Denys Church.

Come and be charmed by the children's festive performance! Mince pies and tea will be served afterwards. Father Christmas will be visiting the children, and we will draw our special Christmas raffle!

Nativity Photos - Check your email for your child's starring role and bring in their costume this week and Sarah (Emilio's mum) has very kindly offered take photos of all the children. Print or digital files can then be purchased for a wonderful Christmas present or nativity keepsake. All the proceeds go towards our fundraising total. Deadline for costumes is Friday 2nd so photos can be ready for the end of term.

No nuts!

We have one child who has a serious, potentially fatal reaction to nuts and therefore children cannot under any circumstances have any nut products in their lunch boxes please.

In addition to this, if you bring in any baked goods for children's birthdays to be given out at pre-school, please include a list of all of the ingredients in the cakes or biscuits. This is in case of a reaction to an allergen other than nuts which we can then provide to the child's parents or medical personnel. This does not apply to cake sales as the parent will be present when the child consumes the item.

A list of known allergens is on display in the foyer of the pre-school or can be requested from the office, but nuts (and sesame seeds) are the only ones that are currently banned from the premises.

Message from the Chair

Welcome to Term 2 to all of our children, parents and carers - this term promises lots of Jingle Bells and sparkly decorations and is a particularly exciting time for families.

We are very lucky to welcome two new members of staff to the team - the lovely Ruth and Lottie are being made to feel very welcome by the children.

As a result of our change of management, East Sussex County Council are conducting an audit involving several visits to the pre school this term. They have been very impressed with the entire setting which is a great tribute to the entire team in place. It's an ongoing process and is a good exercise for us for when Ofsted decide to come and call on us too.

The children have been enjoying lots to do during the changing weather including a lovely Autumn walk and the older bears have been learning a little about Remembrance Day.

In the coming weeks, I know we can expect to hear little bits of songs or hymns, lots of talk of Baby Jesus, and a growing excitement about Christmas. To have a pre-school that actively embraces all elements of society means that our young children are being provided with a wonderfully rounded early education to take with them, not to mention a sense of fun and occasion too.

As always, with various events upcoming to raise funds for our lovely Pre School, the POPS team will always welcome some help, so please pop into the office or look for myself, Vicki, Natalie, Sarah or Amy if you have some time to spare or ideas to share.

And finally, I would like to wish you all a very (early) Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all at the Nativity on 16th Dec.

Newsletter term 2

A warm welcome to Term 2 to all of our parents and carers.

Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed Emilia and Carlo into the pre-school, and are delighted that they have both settled in so well with us. The Christmas term always brings great excitement, which this year also started off with Halloween and bonfire night. The Home corner was a wonderfully spooky Halloween den, complete with all sorts of creepy crawlies, and has now been transformed into Dinosaur Land. The final transformation of our Home Corner will take us into Christmas.

Obviously, the changing scenery of the pre-school environment keeps the children's interest, as well as reflecting events happening in the calendar year and subjects that interest them. The staff are then also able to plan learning activities around these topics, for example, reading Funny Bones to a group of children, and then getting them to put the skeleton back together (insert photo). We've also had plenty of dinosaur related games in the past few weeks, and Christmas will bring a new array of projects for the children to engage with.

POPS!

Wow, is it Winter already?! What a busy start to the year we have had. It kicked off with our Beatrix Potter float for the carnival which won second prize and helped us receive a very welcome donation from The Bonfire Society.

Thank you to all those who made and purchased the delicious cakes at our termly cake stall. It raised an impressive £68. We will be running another stall on 14th & 15th December. All contributions appreciated - we are looking forward to seeing your festive designs!

We have also had some POPS coffee mornings and evening drinks. These take place regularly throughout the year with dates published on the Pre School's Facebook page. All parents are most welcome, come along and chat about ideas for future plans and meet other parents. Please ask any of the team if you would like more information.

Our big event this term is the Christmas Charity Evening on 6th December from 7pm. It's going to be great start to the festive period. Not only is there a fabulous Wreath Making Workshop (£20 per ticket), but also a whole host of local businesses and craftspeople with stalls (£2 per ticket inc. welcome drink and mince pie). There will also be a cash bar, nibbles, games and prizes, making it a wonderful night out and great opportunity to get Christmas presents sorted with weeks to spare! Tickets can be bought in advance from the Pre School office or from any of the POPS team.

Pops will be organising letters to Father Christmas - lookout for our email with all the info.

From next month you can buy your raffle tickets! There are already an impressive number of fantastic prizes on offer, but if anyone has any suggestions for additional prizes please contact the POPS team. The raffle will be drawn and prizes handed out at the end of the Nativity on 16th December.

There's lots happening over the coming weeks, we look forward to seeing you at some of the POPS events.

Best wishes, Natalie,
Sarah and Vicki

Newsletter term 2 continued...

I know that when my son first started at pre-school, I was totally unaware of the amount of learning and knowledge he would be gaining. In fact, like many of you I am sure, I had never heard of the Early Years Foundation Scheme (EYFS). The EYFS is the curriculum that covers children's learning and development from the birth until end of Reception (0-5). In the early stages and until they are 3, the primary focus is on the child's physical development, communication, and their personal and emotional development. From 3 onwards, the curriculum widens to include literacy, maths, understanding the world and expressive arts and design. These additional areas are included for all age groups in the 'What to expect, when' document mentioned below, but becomes more structured after 36 months in terms of what we teach the children within the pre-school setting.

As you will know from dropping off your child, there is always plenty to do as they arrive. Every day there is an art activity taking place, and this will change throughout the day, from painting in the morning to perhaps junk modelling in the afternoon. We also always have areas where the children can role play, take part in construction activities and engage in games that develop their 'fine motor' skills, to name just a few. These are all free play occupations, guided by the staff, but essentially the children are driving their own learning with interjection and assistance from the practitioners where needed. In both the morning and afternoon, smaller groups of children spend time with one or other of the staff for a 'letters and sounds session', which depending on their age, can range from having a story read to them and talking about the book, through to a more structured session where they are learning their letters. These early learning experiences are the building blocks for their first years at school, and the pre-school staff spend a great deal of time planning activities and sessions that are both interesting and stimulating for the children. The practitioners are always watching and assessing the children as per the EYFS, and this is what is fed back to you all on Tapestry.

I hope that most of you will have seen the recent email regarding the 'What to expect, when' document that is now available on our website, and as a hard copy in the foyer of the pre-school. We have been undergoing an audit by East Sussex County Council, and it has been recommended to us that we give you, as parents, this additional information regarding your child's learning and development. As well as giving you an idea of what sort of things we are doing here with the children, there is also a section for each age band called 'How you can help me with my learning?' which provides some lovely ideas and games to play with your child. I would however ask that you please remember that the age bands do overlap (for example 22 – 36 months; 30 – 50 months; 40 – 60 months) and therefore your child may not currently be in the higher banded brackets for all areas. This is not a reason to worry, as the EYFS clearly states 'every child is unique' and that every child will grow and develop at their own pace. If, though, you are concerned then naturally please do not hesitate to contact us, and we will work with you and your child to find the best outcome.

One of our key areas of development at the moment is getting the children to use and increase their 'gross motor skills' – in essence, running, jumping, balancing and all movements associated with these. Current early years thinking is that children need to have these skills – and associated core strength from being able to do them – in order to help them with sitting at a table writing, reading or listening. Now we are able to use the scout hut on a daily basis, the children are all having one physical activity per day where they are practising their gross motor skills. So far this has included games with a beach ball, small bean bags, and a yoga session where the children were cats, dogs, snakes, elephants and monkeys! They have all been thoroughly enjoying their turn and been returning with big smiles on their faces, so a big thank you to all of you that contribute each term, as this is what pays for us to be able to use the scout hut.

Quick info

Did you know we encourage the children to spread jam and marmite on their toast or crackers at snack time? They also pour their own milk or water into their glasses.

Also, please remember to name your children's clothes, especially outdoor coats. We all love going outside so please supply suitably warm clothing for this chilly weather!