

Registered charity 1148519



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Making it good,
for every child, every day



More fun & learning for 2017!

Diary dates

Lookout for up and coming events - the Quiz night soon to be announced...

Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th Feb Cake Sale. Stock up on some winter treats!

Friday 10th Feb Last day of term 3

Monday 20th Feb Start of term 4

Friday 31st Mar Last Day term 4



POPS!

Happy New Year from POPS! We had a great end to last term. Thank you all so much for your support with December's events.

The wreath making evening was a terrific success. It was certainly a fantastic start to Christmas, with mince pies, festive music, games and lots of present ideas from the local stallholders. The wreaths themselves were masterpieces, each so creative and unique – the evening most definitely brought out everyone's inner florist. Truly a fabulous event with a wonderfully festive atmosphere that helped increase our fundraising efforts quite considerably. This type of event is also a valuable opportunity for parents to have a bit of 'me time' and something the POPS team will be aiming to repeat in the future.

There were a plethora of delicious goodies at the end of term cake sale, so much so in fact that you may have noticed some alongside the mince pies at the Nativity, and, across the different days, they raised over £60. Weren't our little ones wonderful in their Nativity costumes? Indeed many parents were keen to have copies of the head shot photographs as keepsakes adding further to the term's fundraising.

Congratulations to all of the raffle prize winners – what a haul to choose from and great early Christmas presents. We are very grateful for the generous donations from both individuals and companies which made the raffle such a success. Please do let POPS know of any suggestions for future raffle prizes.

And so on to 2017...

Best wishes, Natalie, Sarah and Vicki

Message from Emer our Chair

Happy New Year and welcome back to everybody after Christmas and New Years festivities. This is a super speedy term - I can't believe we are already in week 3 and hopefully the snowy and icy weather will soon be behind us.

It was great to see such generosity and involvement from parents and families in the run up to Christmas, hopefully you enjoyed seeing your little ones perform in the Church and their angelic pictures have pride of place in your homes. Thank you for all your contributions - it makes a massive difference to the pre-school and ultimately to what we can offer your children.

There are more fun activities planned as we enter into spring time, please don't be shy about talking to POPs about events, particularly if you have some ideas or spare time.

Finally, please don't forget that you can recognise our wonderful staff by dropping a quick note of thanks into the postbox in the foyer. They all work so hard and to hear that what they are doing is making a difference to your child is a reward in its self.

Support two fun projects run by our resident undergraduates

We are looking forward to two special projects this term, run by Sam and Emily. Both Emily and Sam are in the 2nd year of their Early Years degree course, and are full of amazing ideas. Sam, in conjunction with Wiz, will be running a project which will be community based, and hopefully will involve the children going out to the various businesses in the village and learning a little bit about what they do. The children will then make models of the different buildings, and we hope to have a display of the models at the end of the project. This will help the children with their 'Understanding of the World' area of the EYFS. If you do not wish your child to be part of the outings, please let the office know that you are not giving consent in this instance.

Emily is going to be working with different sets of children to do a 'story and cookie time', which will involve Sarah and Tor baking with a group of children, and then parents being invited in for story time before pick up time. The children will be cooking gingerbread men and the story will be The Gingerbread Man. By asking you as the parents into the setting, we hope that you will be able to observe your child in the pre-school setting, and spend some quality time with them too. We have received feedback that it would be nice for parents to be a little more involved and spend time with their child at the pre-school, so we look forward to welcoming you for the cookies and story time. Emily and the children will be sending out invitations later on this term. We hope that you will support both Emily and Sam's ventures and see how much the children gain from them too.

Note to Parents...

Winter Weather

As proven by last week's effort, we are at risk of some wintery weather over the next month or so. Where this is forecast, we will always try to contact you in advance with regards to what our plans are if there is heavy snow. If we have un-forecast overnight snow, please do check your emails and Facebook, and forward messages on to those who may not have seen them. Where possible, we will always try to remain open, but not if there is a risk to the children and their families, and indeed our staff.

Piriton Forms

Please, if you haven't already done so, check your child's book bag for a Piriton Consent form. Under new legislation, the pre-school are now allowed to give a child a dose of Piriton if they are suffering from an allergic reaction. This can range from a minor reaction, through to a potentially serious one. In cases of smaller reactions (i.e. nettle rashes, insect bites or stings etc) we will administer the correct dose and then advise you at the end of the session. Where there is a serious consequence and risk of anaphylactic shock, we will give the child the medication and naturally contact you as the parent immediately. Please return your signed forms to us as soon as possible.

Newsletter term 3

Dear Parents and Carers, welcome back to term 3. I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, although it seems a long time ago now! This term, we would like to welcome Calum and his family, and also our new apprentice Elise. Elise has been volunteering with us since the summer term, but has now joined us as an employee. She will be studying for her Level 2 in childcare, and will be working for 3 full days a week. We are delighted to have her join the team, and hope that we will in the future be able to help more young people with apprenticeships.

Although we are past Christmas, here at pre-school we are still very much celebrating winter with our Winter Wonderland home corner, and the bear's cosy den too. The children were able to go out on a Bear Hunt last week – before the snow! – and have had a wonderful time playing with fake snow and also real ice both last week and again this week.

This term we will be sending out a Feedback form in the children's book bags, and for those children not going onto school in September 2017, there will be an additional form regarding the 30 hours funding. If you could please take a moment to fill in the Feedback Form, it would be very much appreciated. The pre-school is always considering ways to improve on our offering and what we do, so hearing your thoughts is essential to this process. You can either fill the form in by hand, or go to the website and click on the Feedback Form tab to complete it online.

The second form regarding the 30 hours is to enable us to look at our options for September 2017. As a setting, we are not obliged to offer the full 30 hours, but it would help us if we were aware of what your opinions as parents are. For example, if we decide not to offer the full 30 hours, will you remove your child from the pre-school in order to send them elsewhere, or would you be happy to spread the hours across two settings?

From all of us at the pre-school, we would like to say a huge thank you to our POPS (Parents of Pre-school) members for their fantastic work so far this year, and to you too for your contributions. Together, you have raised a fantastic amount of money, and we are looking to invest this, along with the money donated by Rotherfield and Mark Cross Bonfire Society, to build an outdoor welly boot and P.E. equipment store. Now that we are using the Scout Hut on a daily basis, to be able to take a box of P.E. equipment from an outdoor cupboard will make the process much quicker and easier, not to mention not having wellies in the foyer of the pre-school should make it a little less chaotic! Please do continue to support POPS and the pre-school – it is only through your continued generosity that we are able to invest in projects that ultimately improve what we do for the children.

Did you know?

All of the children have what is known as a 'snack card' which is put on the board outside the kitchen each morning. For our younger children – the Cubs – the cards have both their photo and their name on. The Bears just have their name on their cards. When the bell rings to let them know snack time is open, they go to the board to find their card and take it into the kitchen. By looking for their name each day, with or without the photo, the children are gaining useful skills in letter recognition and the spelling of their name too.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

During the recent audit of the pre-school by Sussex County Council, it was advised that we made you, our parents, aware of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents – RoSPA. Please find below some further information and the website address. We will also be adding the link to our website and Facebook pages.

'At the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), our work is centred on two simple statements - our mission and vision'.

'Our mission is to save lives and reduce injuries'.

'Our vision is to lead the way on accident prevention.'

For further information, please visit www.rospace.com