

Registered charity 1148519



Rotherfield Village Pre-School
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Making it good,
for every child, every day



Welcome back to an exciting new year at pre-school!

Dates for your diary...

Here's what's going on this
term and beyond...

Wednesday 7th Thur 8th Feb

Cake Sale - Come and treat
yourself and your little ones!

Friday 9th Feb Last Day of
Term 3 - Half term

Monday 19th Feb First Day of
Term 4

Monday 29th Mar Last Day of
Term 4 - Easter holidays

Monday 16th Apr First day of
Term 5 - Summer term begins



A message from Emer, our Chair

Welcome back to the shortest term of the year. I hope you've all had a lovely Christmas break. Special welcome to those new children and their families who are joining us this term. We are planning a social evening for parents and staff shortly so hopefully I will have the opportunity to meet you all soon. I'm looking forward to becoming a parent of pre school once again after Easter when my little boy James will join. He will be the third boy in our family to come to pre school which is really lovely for us.

The staff have been busy planning winter and springtime activities for the children and the office staff have worked hard to apply for and win grants so that we have some extra funds to make these activities happen. The POPS committee have also worked extremely hard at their fundraising in the Christmas term and thank you to all who have helped or contributed in one way or another, the funds raised are all being put to excellent use, purchasing additional materials and resources for the children. Lucky kids :) If anyone would like to join the POPS team, whether on a one-off or ongoing basis, please do let the office know, they would be glad of your help as they have a full schedule planned for the remainder of the year.

Warmest regards, Emer

Newsletter Term 3

Happy New Year and welcome back to all of our children and their families, and a special mention to our new children who have started this term, Jack, Lily, Freddy, Berta, Dottie, Jemima, Willow and Woody – it has been lovely getting to know you and your families, and to see how well and how quickly you have all settled in.

Term 3 seems to whizz past in a blur as it is only five weeks long, but we still have lots of activities and learning to fit in! The start of this term saw our themed area turned into a space where the children could experiment with a range of materials, all sorts of sizes and shapes of boxes, packaging and other items that they could use to create whatever their imagination could conjure up. The staff then engaged the children in talking about the different shapes they were finding in the resources on offer, as well as shapes in what they were building. We had 'Shape Cottage', which became a very popular temporary house for a few days, as well as many other child lead inventions over the course of the first week and a half of term.

This week, the children who attended on Thursday had the opportunity to vote as to whether they wanted the next theme to be castles or pirates. By using pictures drawn by the staff of a castle and a pirate ship, the children voted by placing one teddy bear each on the picture of their choice. In the end, the castle theme won, so we have a large number of Knights and Princesses happily playing in their cardboard cut out castle now.

Ensuring that the activities, equipment and environment remains fresh for the children is exceptionally important for all of the staff here at Rotherfield Village Pre-school. Whilst we are expected within the remit of the Early Years Foundation Stage to provide an introduction to more formal learning, the majority of this is achieved through play. The children are primarily free to choose in which area they play, and with what toys – and if one area or activity appears to not be sufficiently engaging, it will be tidied away and a new one put out. The staff spend time with the children in order to help them develop their games and activities into learning experiences – for example, when playing with the marble run 'how many marbles do you have?', or 'what colour is your baby's dress?', 'how many blue cars are there'. From cooking to an art project, building a train track to playing hospitals, our aim is for your child to have lots of fun, whilst at the same time, learning through play.

Please remember the red post box in the foyer of the pre-school – if there is a member of staff who you feel has made a big impact on your child, or who you feel goes the extra mile, please do drop a note in the box to let them know how special they are.

We have also entered the Pre-school Learning Alliance Outstanding Member Awards – if you think that Rotherfield Village Pre-school deserves a nomination, please do vote for us at

<https://www.pre-school.org.uk/alliance-outstanding-member-awards-2018>

Best regards'

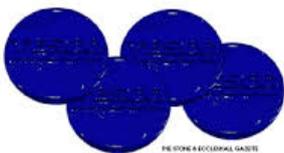
Liz

Tesco Bags of Help

A very exciting piece of news is that we were lucky enough to be voted 2nd out of the 3 nominated charities in the local Tesco's Bags of Help scheme. Thank you to all of you that put tokens into our collection box when you shopped. We have now received a grant of £2,000 to spend on outdoor equipment and outdoor activities. We will be replacing all of our Didi cars and buying some 'road signs' and 'road markings' to go around the path of the recreation ground, as well as purchasing new toys for the outdoor area, along with bug hunting kits and many other resources. We are exceptionally grateful to be in receipt of this grant as without this level of financial input, we would not be able to afford to purchase new or additional resources, all of which go towards 'Making it good for every child, every day.'

TESCO

Bags of Help



Notes To Parents

Names on clothes

Could we please ask that your child's outdoor coat is clearly named so that we can try to ensure it is put back on the right peg. Often when the children come back in from being outside, there it is a little bit busy and coats are removed and discarded. The staff do always try to hang coats back up on the right peg – or close to it – but if items are not named, unless we recognise a coat as belonging to a particular child, it can be hard to achieve this. Additionally, children do remove items of clothes such as jumpers, sweatshirts and cardigans during the day. Sometimes this is because they are too warm, at other times they may have got wet when washing their hands or during an activity with water. Again, the staff try to keep a track of these items, but sometimes it is just not possible. If there is an item of clothing that is of importance, again, please name this to help the staff return it to your child.

Red book and vaccinations

If you have not yet brought your child's red book in so that we can record the dates of their vaccinations and which vaccines they have received, could you please bring it into the office in the next couple of weeks. We have been advised that we should be aware of the vaccinations that all of the children who attend the setting have had from birth to present time, in order to be observing best practice. All personal information, contact details and medical history are kept in a locked filing cabinet in the pre-school office in order to remain inline with data protection regulations. If your child has another vaccination, i.e. the flu vaccine, after we have seen their red book, please do let us know so that we can update our records.



Happy New Year from POPS! Didn't the break go quickly?

We had a busy lead up to Christmas with the very successful wreath making, cake sale, raffle and Nativity. Thanks to the generous involvement and donations of so many of our parents and their families we are well on our way to reaching our annual fundraising target of £3000. This money is essential in supporting the wonderful Pre-School staff, facilitating the extra equipment and materials which the children benefit so greatly from.

We have a whole host of events planned for 2018 to help continue to raise these valuable funds and provide the children (and parents) with opportunities to socialise outside of Pre-School.

We soon have our first cake sale of the year on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th February, at 3pm outside of Pre-School. Baked contributions would be warmly appreciated and can be left in the office on the Wednesday morning. The cake sales at the end of each half term are a really easy way of getting involved in the Pre-School fund raising and POPS are always very grateful to the parents who take the time to make cakes and those who bring along a couple of pounds to exchange for some sweet treats.

As we move towards the end of spring we will be holding a social evening for parents to have a relaxing night out and get to know other Pre-School parents. Further details will be published over the next few weeks.

On Good Friday we will be holding a stall at Rotherfield and Mark Cross Bonfire Society's Easter celebration, a wonderful community event well worth a visit.

On 18th May we have our annual quiz night, a great evening to test those brain cells whilst having lots of laughs. This is always a very popular event so get those babysitters booked!

As always, please do let POPS know if you have any ideas or can help with events. POPS will be having an informal get together at The Kings Arms on Monday 5th February at 8pm – all parents are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Best wishes for 2018,

Sarah (on behalf of the POPS team)

Did you know?

Before Christmas we purchased some equipment to use in the Scout Hut to help the children with their core strength. Research has shown that children need to develop this core strength and their 'gross motor skills' (i.e. running, jumping, sitting up properly) before they are able to sit at a table, concentrate and be able to hold a pen and mark make – the precursor to writing.

Children with poor core strength find it very hard to sit still at a table as it requires huge physical effort – this therefore impacts on their concentration and ability to learn. We now have 'tummy boards' that the children lie on and can propel themselves around, as well as curved 'wobble boards' that are for standing on to help develop balance. We hope to be able to add to our range of equipment for physical activities over time.