



Term 1 2012/2013 Newsletter

Making it good,
for every child, every
day

Registered Charity No.
1028021

News from Vicky and the Team

Welcome

We have started our term by welcoming many new children and families; Sam, Seb, Abigail, Charlotte, Lizzie, Chloe, Kubus, Reuben B, Reuben R, Liberty, Tommy and Jacob. The children that were with us last term are already welcoming our new children and making friends. The team of staff this year are; Vicky, Fiona, Wiz, Gillian, Kristie, Emily, Sharon, Jennie, Tracy, Diana, Liz, Sam, Hilary and Pippa. At group time in the mornings and afternoons we are busy all learning each other's names. We start this new school year with a new Government led Early Years Framework (EYFS), which helps to shape our practice, policies, partnership with parents and our general day to day running. If you would like more information on the framework please either visit our home page of our website www.rotherfieldpre-school.co.uk or just ask in the office.

Curriculum

So what will we be doing this term? Our ethos is that children will learn through their own play and therefore we are always led by the children and respect their play but we also have some ideas that naturally tie in with this time of year. We will be looking at Harvest through; baking, songs, poems and stories. We will also be looking at all the colours in the natural world and mixing paints to see what colours we can make. You can find full details on our website under the 'medium term plan' section, located on the information page.

Communication

We know that you all want to know what your children have been doing during the day and as parents ourselves we know that children say "I can't remember". So the best way to find out is to have a chat with your key person or another member of staff at the end of the day. We also have Home Contact books which are primarily for you to give us information and also to work as a 3 way communication if your child attends another setting. We read these books each day but Key Persons will only write in them when they have any significant information or to give you a general update. If however your child has only just started at pre school, they will be written in more frequently. Each child also has their own Learning Journey which is a file full of photographs, pictures observations and assessments, so that we can carefully track each child's progress. You can ask to see these at any time but we will always invite you to come in and spend time with your child's Key Person once they have completed the 2 Year Check on your child, which is now a legal requirement under the new framework (EYFS, 2012). In essence we want to work in partnership with you as you are the experts on your child.

What's New

Thank you for supporting the Tesco and Sainsbury's School voucher schemes. As a result we now have a camcorder and tripod, so that we can capture children's play which we know they will enjoy watching on the white board. We will also help the children to make their own movies. Also in this world of technology and thanks to a grant from two local charities and the hard work of Sandra Cawsey we now have an ipad for all children to use.

As always if you have any questions please do not hesitate to talk to your child's key worker or pop in and see us in the office.

A note from our chair

Welcome back to a new Pre-School year, I hope you all had a lovely summer rest and enjoyed the sunshine when it shone! We were very sad to say goodbye to several committee members including Rebecca Turner, the previous chair, who did an amazing job and brought so much to the pre-school; she has left some very big boots to fill! This is my first newsletter, for anyone who doesn't know me, I am mum to Harriet (nearly 6) and Eryn (3 and a half) and I am very much looking forward to being chair of the committee this year.

I hope you have all had a chance to come into pre-school and see the fantastic new furniture and equipment that Vicky and the team were busy building and setting up during the summer. Sourced from 'Community Play Things' the equipment costing £7,000 is made from solid wood, guaranteed for 25 years and creates the following dedicated zoned areas: Construction, Imaginary play, Reading, Small world, Physical, Art.

I'm sure all of the children will love exploring the new areas and this is thanks to the success of our Weald of Fortune Quiz night in July which raised £1,100 and previous fundraising profits. Thank you to all of the committee members for their hard work and everyone who supported the Quiz Night, it was a fantastic evening with yummy food and an outstanding array of puds!

In addition to the fabulous new equipment, pre-school is now the proud owner of an ipad with specialist applications, thanks to the marvelous efforts of Sandra Cawsey who secured funding from Smith and Farmor Trust to finance the purchase. This technology aids communication and will help enormously in supporting children with communication delay, English as a second language and physical disabilities as the touch screen is easier to use than a mouse.

Fundraising is extremely important to the pre-school and we look forward to your continued support with our forthcoming events. Our next fundraiser is at the Rotherfield Carnival on the 6th October, we are participating in the evening procession with a small float and during the day with a face painting stall. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

I'm sure you are all pleased to see the lovely new driveway to pre-school which was completed by the parish council during the summer. No more puddle jumping in the winter months! And I am very happy to report that the sewage issue has finally been resolved; an annual service agreement is now in place to ensure a sweet smelling pre-school for the future!!

We are now able to offer online banking facilities. Our account details will appear on your invoice for Term 1, which will be with you shortly, together with a copy of our new fee policy explaining how the Government funding works.

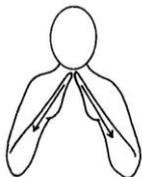
And finally we are very pleased to welcome Laura (Seb's mum) and Dawn (Liberty's Mum) to the committee; we hope they enjoy being part of our team. If anyone else would like to join the committee or get involved with our fundraising events please pop in to the office to chat with Vicky or myself.

Louisa (Eryn's mum) Chair

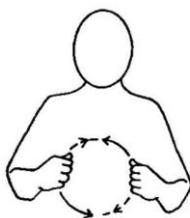
Makaton Signs

Makaton is a form of sign language which is commonly used with children with additional needs and with young children. We use makaton at pre school as some children find communicating in a large group quite daunting, they will however sign with makaton. We also notice at singing time that reluctant singers will happily sign away. So we would like to introduce you to makaton with some simple signs which you can do at home with your children.

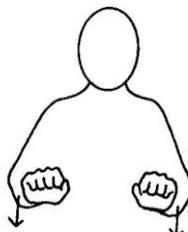

HOUSE
(this sign can be used for both "HOUSE" and "HOME", if a more iconic version is required for "HOME")




CAR




CHAIR



As always, please help us to keep our costs down by donating a jar of jam, Marmite or a packet of crackers every so often. We would be ever so grateful! Thank

A little reminder to please ensure all lunchboxes and drink bottles are named. We have an array of pink and blue bottles, and sometimes the children can't always distinguish which one is theirs. Many thanks!!





As Christmas is fast approaching now is a good time to remind you all that there is a fantastic way to financially support your pre-school and at no extra cost to you. Shop at Amazon.co.uk via the link on our website and For every purchase you make from this link the pre-school will earn up to 5% commission. Many thanks in advance.



We understand that children like to bring their toys in from home to show to their friends; however it can be upsetting if these toys get mixed up with ours. Could we please try to keep toys from home to a minimum, and ensure they are named. Many thanks.

Dates for the diary

Monday 1st October - Harvest festival at St Denys Church at 9.30am.

Saturday 6th October - Rotherfield Carnival. Pre-school have a stall during the afternoon and a float in the evening

Wednesday 24th October - Pampered Chef evening 7.30pm start.

Friday 26th October - Last day of term 1.

Monday 5th November - First day of term 2.