

Registered charity 1148519



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## Summer is on its way!

### Diary dates

#### Up and coming events -

**Tues 23rd May** Hanging Basket Evening

**Thurs 25th May** Cake Sale

**Fri 26th May** Cake Sale  
Car Boot donations deadline

Last Day of Term 5

**Mon 5th June** First Day Term 6

Calling all those with green fingers...(and anyone without!)  
**Hanging Basket Making Social Evening**  
**23rd May**

Come and get creative!  
Have a glass of wine and chat with friends  
£20 inc materials



### Message from Emer our Chair

Welcome back after Easter and to finer days and the promise of summer around the corner. It's great to see the children spending more time outside and I know the pre school have allocated some of that funding that you've all worked so hard to raise this year to adding more to the outside area at the pre school so that our children can play, learn and have even more fun outside over the coming months.

As always the POPs team are working hard to keep coming up with new and interesting ideas for fundraising events, such as the upcoming hanging basket evening, so please do keep on taking part and of course, come and talk to them if you have some time to spare to get involved yourself in any way possible. It's crucial for keeping our pre school outstanding and your generosity this year means they have already smashed this years fundraising target! So congratulations and thank you from us all. The children will keep on reaping the benefits.

Well done to those big Bears who have secured places at primary school, I hope you're all happy with your plans for the year ahead for them. The transition with Rotherfield Primary has begun so hopefully those four and almost-four years olds are getting excited about what comes after Pre School graduation this summer :)

Best wishes,  
Emer

### Dear parents and carers,

A very warm welcome back to all of our children and their parents and carers this term, and a special hello to our new starters, Scarlett and Holly, and of course their families. It is always exciting when we have new children join us, and to see how well they settle in and become a part of the pre-school family.

Following a glorious Easter Holidays, we seem to have regressed back to some very chilly and miserable weather again, which has slightly put back our plans to get the children outside more. We do of course still use our outdoor decking area, which Emily gave a lovely makeover over the Easter break, and we've been out on the diddi cars, which are always a favourite. Some of the children have also been on their first trip down to Millennium Green, which is a great exercise for them to learn about the importance of walking together well, staying with the teachers and listening properly, and of course appreciating our lovely village and surrounding countryside. We hope that there will be plenty more occasions for the children to 'go on an adventure' as the summer terms progress!

In the wet weather however, the use of the scout hut is just a fantastic resource as it gives the children the opportunity to have a run around, and allows the staff to introduce learning to the children in a physical way, for example, working on letter recognition by running to a particular letter on the floor. We have you, the parents to thank for this, as the hire of the scout hut is covered by the voluntary donations that you make – we are exceptionally grateful for your continued support, and know that the children are benefitting from their time spent at the scout hut.

Another use of some of the fantastic fundraising done by POPs, and again down to your ongoing generosity this year, is that we will shortly be taking delivery of a 'Welly shed' and another storage shed for the outdoor and P.E. equipment. We hope that the welly shed will clear some space in the foyer so that it becomes less crowded, and we will be able to keep our outdoor and physical education resources easily accessible for use either outside or in the scout hut. We have also been able to fund this by using the very generous donation from the Rotherfield and Mark Cross Bonfire Society following the carnival in 2016. A plaque to thank the Bonfire Society will be installed on one of the sheds as a permanent thank you.

If you are able to come along and support the 'Create a Hanging Basket' social event, or donate unwanted items to the car boot sale, please do continue to give us your backing as every penny that we receive as a charity is money that we can put back into buying equipment, toys and resources for the pre-school, therefore making it good for every child, every day.

### Did you know?

Each morning and afternoon session, the toys and activities on offer for the children are changed so that the children who attend all day experience a wide variety of stimulus. We do however ensure that the children who only attend in the afternoon or mornings have the chance to engage in adult lead learning activities so that they don't miss out on the opportunity to get involved. And at the end of each session, all of the children are encouraged to help tidy up the toys and activities that have been out being played with (unfortunately we can't promise that they will start tidying up at home!)

## Pops

Well, April has whizzed on by hasn't it? And we are steaming through May so before we know it the end of the year will be here. POPs are incredibly grateful for the enthusiastic support we receive from parents, carers, children and staff of the Pre School which makes organising and running events so enjoyable.

Thanks to everyone who came and said 'hi' at the Bonfire Society Easter Egg Hunt, where we successfully sold our very popular walking animal balloons. It was a great community event to be involved in and the Bonfire Society have also offered us a stall at their summer fair on 15th July.

Our POPs team meeting was very productive, with a lot of ideas for future events. All parents and carers are always welcome to come along. We are planning an evening catch up at the end of this term and another daytime meeting towards the end of June and we will continue to publish meeting dates on posters at the Pre School and on the Pre School Facebook page.

### **This term the main POPs events are:**

We are offering a **Hanging Basket Evening on 23rd May** - a great opportunity to produce a beautiful summer display for your garden whilst having a good old natter! **Tickets are just £20** which includes all materials as well as a drink and dessert. For those of us who work up a thirst or appetite there will be some additional drinks and snacks available to purchase.

There is also a **Car Boot Sale** planned for the beginning of June, so any donations before **26th May** would be gratefully received. There is a box in the Pre School foyer for smaller items or please speak to any of the POPs team.

And of course, we will be holding our termly **cake sale on 25th and 26th May**, where we look forward to seeing the creative and delicious baked goodies so many parents kindly contribute.

Looking further ahead, next term we will have stalls at both the Bonfire Society and Primary School summer fairs. There will also be the summer party as well as the end of year celebration and picnic. Additionally, POPs are hoping to organise commemorative gifts for leavers which parents and carers will be able to purchase as keepsakes. Finally, (although it may seem a long way off) we have started to plan the Pre School's float at the Bonfire Society's September carnival. More details will follow soon.

We look forward to seeing you at the POPs events and, as ever, please feel free to speak to any of us about ideas, helping out, event information or just to have a chat!

Best wishes

Michelle, Natalie, Sarah and Vicki

## Help us fight for our funding

'**The Pre-school Learning Alliance**', of which we are a member, is working hard to campaign on behalf of pre-schools, nurseries and child minders in order to fight for better funding from the government. Please read the following information:

### **The 30-hour offer cannot work without adequate funding.**

But for many nurseries, pre-schools and childminders, the money the government gives them to pay for funded places is not enough.

Worse still, funding levels are set to stay the same until 2020, even though the cost of wages, rents, pensions, and much more will rise during that time.

We are seeing more and more providers being forced to close as a result of poor funding – and many of those that remain aren't sure whether their businesses can survive offering the 30-hours.

If the 30-hour offer is to be truly free for both parents and providers, it must be funded properly, both now and in the future.

If you agree, add your voice to the Alliance's Fair Future Funding campaign today.

Parent sign up:

[www.pre-school.org.uk/fffparents](http://www.pre-school.org.uk/fffparents)

## Note to Parents...

We are going to be doing a **'Healthy Eating'** project with the children this term, and looking at healthy food choices like fruit and vegetables, and encouraging the children to look at the foods that they eat. We will also be looking at their lunch boxes, and asking what foods they enjoy the most. The current guidance for lunch boxes is as follows;

- One portion of fruit and one portion of vegetable or salad every day to be included in packed lunches
- Meat, fish or another source of non-dairy protein should be included every day. Non dairy sources of protein include lentils, kidney beans, chickpeas, hummus and falafel
- An oily fish, such as salmon, should be included at least once every three weeks
- A starchy food, such as bread or pasta, rice, couscous, noodles, potatoes or other cereals, should be included every day
- A dairy food, such as semi-skimmed or skimmed milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais or custard should be included every day
- Free, fresh drinking water should be available at all times
- Include only water, still or sparkling, fruit juice, semi-skimmed or skimmed milk, yoghurt or milk drinks and smoothies
- Snacks such as crisps should not be included. Instead, seeds, vegetables and fruit (with no added salt, sugar or fat). Savoury crackers or breadsticks served with fruit, vegetables or dairy food are also a good choice
- Confectionery such as chocolate bars, chocolate-coated biscuits and sweets should not be included. Cakes and biscuits are allowed but these should be part of a balanced meal
- Meat products such as sausage rolls, individual pies corned meat and sausages / chipolatas should be included only occasionally

**Please remember that we are a NUT FREE ZONE!**

A big thank you to our courageous mums Jo Clayforth-Carr, Susannah Easy, Michelle King and Abi Garety for successfully completing the The Royal British Legion Major Series and raising £345 for the pre-school. What a fantastic achievement ladies!



## What does my child do at pre-school: What is the EYFS?

As well as spending lots of time inside and outside playing, all of the children are also experiencing an early education in preparation for starting school. As an organisation, the pre-school is required to follow the Government set curriculum, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), and this is what Ofsted assesses us on when they inspect the setting. The EYFS sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old, although in the pre-school setting, we concentrate on the 2 – 4/5 year olds, with the first year of Reception also covered by the EYFS.

When our children first start here aged 2, the emphasis is very much on their Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Language and Communication (CL), and Physical Development, including personal care and hygiene (PD). These are the core areas that form the foundations for any learning in later years. As the children grow older, they will start to experience very basic Literacy, Mathematics, Technology, Understanding the World and be observed in their use of Expressive Arts and Design. Many of the activities that the staff devise are based around helping the children in all these areas, but we never insist that a child joins in if they are resistant to it.

All the children learn at different rates, and one of the key elements of the EYFS is that 'every child is unique', and therefore their learning path should be treated as such. The staff here are all experienced in helping their key children by identifying the 'Next Steps' that they need to be taking in order to help their ongoing learning and development, and will often include a 'How you can support this at home' post on Tapestry if you wish to get involved too.

Although we are giving the children the groundwork for their future education whilst they are with us, the priority is still for all of the children in our care to have fun, be engaged by a range of activities, and have the freedom to choose where they play, and with what, for most of the day. Our aim is to ensure that when a child moves up to Reception, they are happy, confident, independent in their personal hygiene, and have a basic understanding of letters and numbers, before going on to learn these in more depth at school.

Further information about the EYFS can be obtained from the pre-school office, or by going online to <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/eyfs-statutory-framework/>