



Issue 4
24.02.2020

Parent's Newsletter

Useful information

A MASSIVE Thank You

Once again, a MASSIVE thank you to all of our parents for their continued support in our fundraising efforts, from volunteering, to donating prizes, to attending the events and helping us raise those all important funds needed to keep our pre-school open and running.

Our Term Three fundraising events were as follows...

- Parent Donation from FB sales
- Cake Sale
- Parent Donation
- Valentine's Disco
- Community Café
- Donations Tin at Community Café
- Valentine's Raffle

These events collectively raised us a fundraising profit of **£829.88!** That brings our total for fundraising so far this academic year to an outstanding **£3538.67!** Thank you so much to all involved in each of these fundraisers. Watch this space for some new purchases to enhance the play and learning of the children!

A little about why we fundraise...

We are a charity run organisation, which means that we do not get any funding for the business from the government. We fundraise to ensure that this local pre-school can run and remain open, which makes all of our fundraising efforts so important. We have managed to raise an amazing amount so far this academic year, but we still need to continue to fundraise to ensure that pre-school remains operational.

We have many things that we have to pay out as a business, such as staff wages, liability insurance, rent of our premises, etc. so ensuring we raise as much as we can to cover all outgoings plus more for new resources and experiences is really why we pour so much into fundraising events. This is also why we ask for donations and volunteers, as we simply cannot run successful fundraisers without the support of all of our parents too.

Parents of children aged 3 and 4 years qualify for either 15 or 30 hours of funding from the government, dependant on eligibility. We would like to share with you an insight into the difference a funded child space pays compared to a paying child space to help our parents to understand another reason why fundraising is so important to us...

- The Government pays **£3.66** per hour per funded child.
- The actual cost of running the pre-school is **£5.50** per hour per child.

- That is a shortfall of **£1.84** per hour per funded child which we then have to raise as a charity run setting. As a result of this we are continuously looking for fundraising opportunities within the village and the wider community.

If you have any ideas or inspiration for fundraising that you think we could use then please let us know, we are happy to listen and try to implement as many ideas as we possibly can to help our lovely village pre-school to thrive.

Upcoming fundraising events this term

- Photography
- Book Sale
- Fire Fighters Collection
- Pyjama Party
- Cake Sale
- Mother's Day Ceramics

Session Changes and Funding

Please can we remind all parents that we ask for a **month's** notice for any change in sessions or to withdraw your child from Silverstone Pre-School.

We are still finding some parents requesting session changes and wanting these changes to start immediately and unfortunately this is not possible. We have to ensure that numbers are met, ratios are adhered to and if your child is funded, we have to amend the funding headcount to ensure we are not overclaiming or underclaiming for their funded hours and amendments can only be made at the end of each month.

We understand that circumstances change, different needs are then required and we will, wherever possible, always try to work with you but we do need time to put changes in place.

Messy Play Donations

A HUGE thank you to everyone that has donated messy play resources, we had a great response and we have now been able to stock up our messy play drawers with some wonderful items to enhance the children's play and learning.

NEW Car Park

Chapel were given a grant to adapt and make the car park a safer area to park in. They have re-tarmacked the area and have put in an additional parking bay next to their building to aid the disabled members of their community. They have kindly asked that we remind parents that this car park is for the use of the pre-school staff and the chapel members only and therefore parents are not permitted to park on this area. They have also asked if parents can please be considerate when parking at drop off and pick up times to not block the entry way of the car park or the narrow road directly outside. We understand that parking is not great, especially when the Methodist Church is holding an event such as Community Café, but we appreciate your cooperation in this.

Funding

It has come to that time of the year again where we head into a new funding block on 1st April 2020.

Any children who turn 3 between 1st January and 31st March will be entitled to funding in the next funding block. We will be sending funding forms home to all children who are newly eligible for parents to complete.

Can we please remind parents that we require your child's birth certificate and a recent utility bill to photocopy and store in your child's file as evidence for their funding, without this you could lose funding. If you have received an email requesting these then please bring them in ASAP to avoid missing out.

ALL funded children will have new parental contracts to sign as we head into this new block so please be aware that you will be asked to sign paperwork when dropping off/collecting in the next few weeks.

Any children who are already funded but have recently become eligible for 30 hour funding, please let Emily know so that she can provide you with a form to complete with your 30 hour funding information.

We will be sending home a session change request form, these will be approved on a first come first served basis so ensure you return it ASAP to secure your amended hours. If you do not wish to change hours then simply do not fill it in. These forms must be back by the allocated deadline to ensure changes to sessions from April 2020.

Illnesses

Please can we remind parents that if your child is reliant on paracetamol for illness then they should not be in setting. Please ensure they are running a normal temperature and are well within themselves when you bring them in. We have been trying hard to reduce the spread of infection as this winter seems to have been one of the worst for illness. Thank you for your cooperation.

What a term we've had!

The children have enjoyed an exciting third term, with plenty more village walks, taking in their community and talking about the world around them. The children have learnt about different topics, such as Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day and Under The Sea. We spoke about the different cultures and why we celebrate different occasions. We also learned about the different kinds of animals that can be found in the sea, what they eat and how they sound. We had a visit from 'Rodders', Claire's pet bearded dragon. She spoke about where he lives/sleeps, about his skin and the food that he eats. Some of the children were even brave enough to stroke him! The children shared what pets they all have at home and we used this as a discussion point to let the children explain how their pets need to be cared for, what they eat, etc. We also brought back our cooking club which will run every other week on different days to ensure that all children will get a turn to participate. We decorated heart shaped biscuits with the children for Valentine's day and spoke about the ingredients that are used to make biscuits.



Polite Reminders Allergies and Lunchbox Guidelines

We still have some children with nut allergies and therefore we remain a nut free setting this academic year for the safety and well being of all the children in our care. This means that we will not accept any food items packed in lunch boxes that contain any nuts. Please ensure you are mindful of this when you are making lunches for your children. Thank you.

Please can we also take this opportunity to remind parents that food items such as grapes and olives must be cut into quarters length ways as these are a choking hazard. We will cut these up in setting but we do advise parent's to do so at home to help our lunchtime to run smoothly.

Appropriate Attire

We ask parents to please be mindful when packing their children's bags. Please take into consideration the weather conditions and pack appropriate clothing. Coats, hats, gloves and wellies will be needed as the weather is colder. We ask that if your child is in nappies, that you please pack enough nappies and wipes for their session. We also ask that you pack spare clothes as we do sometimes have accidents and we love to get messy!

Tapestry

We continue to enjoy uploading all the fun and experiences your children have done whilst at pre-school but we do ask that parents also upload experiences from home and continue to like and comment on the posts uploaded by their key person to show good relationships between home and pre-school.

We also encourage parents to complete the 'All About Me' section on their child's tapestry (this can be found on the desktop version, not the app and will appear when you click on the child's profile), this helps us to understand and have some insight into your child's home life, culture and interests which we can then incorporate into their learning here at pre-school.

Dates for diaries

27.02.2020 – Individual Photographs (natural play setting)

W/C 02.03.2020 – Book Sale

06.03.2020 – Firefighters Collection

06.03.2020 – 11.03.2020 – Mother's Day Ceramics

31.03.2020 – Cake Sale at pick up (12pm, 1pm, 3.30pm)

TBC – Pyjama Party

03.04.2020 – Pre-School Closes at 1pm

06.04.2020 – 17.04.2020 – Half Term

21.04.2020 – Training Day