



Issue 1
29.09.2020

Parent's Newsletter

Useful information

A HUGE Welcome!!

Welcome back to our returning families and a very warm welcome to our new families. It has been a very surreal time, having 6 months off and being in lockdown. However, saying this, the children have come back with amazing attitude and enthusiasm. Even the children who have been a little unsettled seem to be finding their feet and settling much quicker when dropped off in the mornings.

A big Thank you.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the parents of Silverstone Pre-School. Thank you for your immense support through our closure of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for the well wishes to the staff and their own families. Thank you for the understanding and compassion. But most of all, thank you for returning to/starting at Silverstone Pre-School. Without you, this pre-school would not have survived the pandemic and we are so grateful that we can still run and provide our small village pre-school to all the wonderful children in the local area. We have all missed you.

We would also like to thank the staff, who have poured a huge amount of time and effort into the pre-school. From the management ensuring all policies, procedures, risk assessments and health and safety were met, to staff giving up their time for meetings to understand all the new guidance and to dedicate their skills in improving the outdoor space after 6 months of being unable to access the area. Thank you to this amazing team!

Why fundraising is so important right now...

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. Due to the pandemic our fundraising has taken a big hit and even with everything that is still going on, 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. At this time it is difficult with restrictions and social distancing so any new ideas would be appreciated.

Do you have any of the following?

We are looking for donations of the following items. Can you help?

- Towels
- Tea Towels
- Storage boxes with secure lids
- Plastic storage trolleys

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.

Parking

Chapel have kindly asked that we remind parents that the 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, but we appreciate your cooperation in this.

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.

Please also see the most recent illness guidelines being sent out to give clear and concise advice on what to do if your child is unwell. Please follow this, it is so important that we do our part in trying to stop the potential spread of coronavirus.

Polite Reminders

Lunchbox Guidelines

Please can we 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.

Please be mindful when packing your child's lunch box and try not to provide too many packaged items. We are trying to reduce the amount that staff are having to have contact with the children's items and if the children cannot open these items then staff are having to help.

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 gets 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 are back to 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 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

23.10.2020 – Pre-School Closes at 12.30pm

26.10.2020 – 30.10.2020 – Half Term
