



# Ide Hill Pre-School

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## Newsletter No 1 – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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### Happy Hols

On behalf of the team I hope you all have a wonderful Summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you back to pre-school on 6th September.

### Taster Sessions

Taster Sessions for our new children will be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September either at 9-10.30 or 11-12.30, please refer to your welcome pack.

### New Children

We are delighted to welcome new families and our new children in September. We hope that they will be very happy with us.

### Thank you

On behalf of the team, I would like to say a huge thank you for all our lovely end of term gifts. We are so grateful to you all.

### Term Dates

Please see the notice board and the website. We finish this term on Friday 22 October.

### Committee News

Wow, what a year it's been. As we come to the end of our pre-school year, I wanted to take the time to say a big thank you to each and every one of you for your support towards the pre-school. It's not been an easy year to run the usual fundraising activities, however we have still managed to raise just under £890 from our Christmas raffle, toy sale, sponsored walk and sports day refreshments! A big thank you and well done !

Another huge thank you to all the pre-school staff. They have been so dedicated and determined to provide our children a fun, happy, educational, safe space during these unusual times and I know the parents are so appreciative of their hard work. I hope they all enjoy a rest over the Summer!

The committee will see Hazel Hillman and Cat Ridgeway stepping down as their little ones move onto primary school and I want to thank them both for their hard work. We have recently welcomed Liz Mitchell onto the committee.

Good luck to all our school leavers this year - it was lovely to see them all at sports day and we wish them the best of luck on their transition to primary school.

We look forward to welcoming our new parents and children in September 2021. If any new or existing parents are interested in joining the committee - please contact either myself or Liz Money.

There should be some exciting opportunities next year to engage in more fundraising opportunities, increase parent engagement and to support our pre-school.

Please note there is an IdeHill pre-school WhatsApp group which has been really helpful to parents this year - if you would like to join this group please email your name and mobile number to Sarahmcglasson@outlook.com and I will get you added.

Have a lovely Summer, stay safe and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Thank you  
**Sarah McGlasson,**  
**Chairperson**

### **All about Me - Tapestry**

Please can you complete the "About Me" form on Tapestry before we return to pre-school, this information is really important and helps us to get to know your child and settle them in when they first start at Ide Hill.

### **Labelling Items**

Please label everything, water bottles, lunch boxes, clothes, wellies, coats, hats.

### **Tapestry on-line Learning Journals**

For our new parents, you should by now have been sent an email to register for Tapestry, please can you ensure you have set up a password before your child starts with us. Each child at Ide Hill Pre-school has their own unique tapestry journal. These online learning journals provide a history of the time your child is with us at pre-school.

We are hoping you will add photographs/videos to the online journals or type up some observations of key moments/interests/likes/dislikes/events/outings/language development anything you would like us to know about your child.

Your observations together with ours help us with the planning and extending your children's learning. Any questions regarding observations please speak with your key person.

Furthermore, "Proud Cloud" notes are now available, which you will find in the lobby/with your key person. As your child learns and develops they will start to use their knowledge and skills in a variety of contexts. Please tell us when you see your child do something that makes you say "I'm proud!"

### **Policies**

For information, all pre-school policies and procedures are available to view on our website [www.idehillpreschool.org](http://www.idehillpreschool.org). Copies also in the lobby.

### **The Newly Revised EYFS**

Please click on the link below which will take you to our website to read the latest information on the Early Years Foundation Stage. This is the curriculum that the pre-school will follow and will be used until the end of Reception year. [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) from September 2021](#)  
[« Ide Hill Preschool](#)

### **Bills/Invoices - Urgent**

For our new parents - bills will be issued 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each new term. Our bank account details are as follows, please pay all monies to the following:- CAF Bank CAF Cash Account Account Name: Ide Hill Pre-School Sort Code 40-52-40 Account Number 00030851 To assist with the invoicing process and to save any unnecessary chasing. When paying invoices could you please return the paid invoice to school with any screen print or similar that you can produce either for the bank transfer or from the Childcare Voucher system.

Currently the information shown on the bank statement makes it very difficult to identify who has made these payments, and your assistance would save time and help us. It will also prevent unnecessary chasing of monies already received.

### **Snack/water bottle**

All children need to bring a named water bottle and a piece of fruit, vegetables, cracker or cheese **every day** they attend. Please place in the wicker basket/water bottle box outside pre-school. Please NO NUTS /SESAME PRODUCTS.

## Forest School

We offer all children after they turn 3, the opportunity to become involved in the outdoor environment through the use of our Forest School. The site that we will use is the "picnic area" opposite the pre-school, a spacious plot with large mature trees and open grass area. This is ideal for all sorts of activities. We hold Forest School sessions every week throughout the term from 9.30 - 12.00. Activities include: den building, willow weaving, insect safaris, mud sculpting, natural art, whittling etc.

### Forest School sessions will begin 4th week of this term.

The Forest School initiative offers children regular opportunities to undertake learning and play in local woodland. It is complementary, not separate to learning in a traditional pre-school environment. Sessions in the Forest School are not timetable or workbook-led, but driven by the learners themselves, drawing on their interests and imagination. Through Forest School children are able to develop a lifelong love and understanding of the natural environment, whilst developing the core purposes of the Forest School ethos, namely, development of self-esteem, confidence and social skills.

### Wellies/Forest School

The children enjoy using the garden area/Forest School in all weathers. It would be helpful if they could bring a spare pair of named wellies to pre-school for wet days, please leave these by their pegs and we will then place on the welly rack.

Please also note, the children do get very dirty at pre-school, through painting and gardening activities, please dress them appropriately.

We sell uniforms; consisting of Fleeces and Polo shirts, please speak to Mrs Jepson to purchase these.

### Treasure Boxes

Treasure boxes provide an ideal way to develop children's personal, social and emotional learning.

These are "shoe boxes" which we ask you to add a photograph on the top of the box of your child, decorate with your child and fill them up with their most treasured possessions i.e. postcards, favourite toys, shells, tickets from the zoo etc.

Please return them to pre-school ASAP. These boxes can be taken home and treasures changed and then brought back to pre-school. The boxes provide the opportunity for children to share their memories and contents with their friends and key person.

The key person will also have their own special box which they will share with their key group. The treasure boxes also provide children with a sense of ownership, help demonstrate that each child is valued, boosts children's confidence and self-esteem and help the children to learn respect and take pride in looking after their own boxes.

### Dylan the Dog

For our new parents, Dylan is Ide Hill pre-school's travelling Dog. Each week the Dog is taken home by one of the children, there is an opportunity for you to write, draw or take photographs of her weekend adventures with you.

He is then returned after the weekend. In Dylan's overnight bag there is a scrap book and a change of clothes.

On Monday we discuss and look at Dylan's book. We look forward to your comments.

### Baking Basket

We have a 'Baking Basket' which we send home each week with one of the children. The idea is for you and your family to try new recipes and also for you to log your own favourites, for other parents/children to try. The "Baking Basket" is for you to use for one week.

Please ensure all utensils are cleaned and replaced before returning back to the pre-school. Thank you.

### Absences/Emails

If your child is absent from pre-school please kindly telephone the pre-school in the morning before 09.00 a.m. 01732 750749. Please note, emails will not be read/answered after 5.00 p.m. and not at weekends.

### Illness

Parents are asked **not to** bring into the pre-school any child who has been vomiting or had diarrhoea until at least 48 hours has elapsed since the last attack.

### Star of the week for last term



Each week a child will be nominated by their key person for an achievement they have made during pre-school.

### Healthy Lunch Boxes

Please could you remember to name your child's lunch box and water bottle. This will avoid items going missing and drinks bottles going home in the wrong lunch boxes.

Additionally, if you are providing grapes/cherry tomatoes please ensure they are cut in half.

We also have **NO NUTS** in pre-school, food such as Pesto (which contain nuts) is also not allowed.

We believe eating well is important for children's health and development.

A healthy, enjoyable lunch gives children the energy they need to learn, play and do well at pre-school.

As part of the new EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) a huge emphasis is on oral health. This term, we will be working towards teaching the children about oral health, a healthy lifestyle, which includes healthy eating and would appreciate your help.

### **Good Habits Start Young!**

We are actively discouraging children bringing:

- Crisps and other savoury snacks
- Pastry products such as sausage rolls or pastries

- Chocolate or chocolate covered bars
- Cakes, biscuits and cookies
- Fizzy drinks
- Sweets

### **For the health and safety of our children, we DO NOT allow the following in our pre-school:**

- Glass bottles or ring pull cans
- Flasks (with hot or cold contents)
- Swapping food (due to allergies)
  - Nuts/pesto (due to allergies and choking risk)

### **Some practical tips:**

- If you make up a lunch box the night before, store it in the fridge
- Vary the sort of bread you use - cut wholemeal pitta bread into strips to have with dip
- Cold cooked pasta can easily be turned into a pasta salad. Remember to store in the fridge!
- Put some salad in a small bag or tub.
- Encourage your child to help prepare their lunch - children are more likely to eat something they have helped with!

### **What shall I put in my child's lunch box?**

A good variety of foods that fit into different food groups will help your child to eat a balanced lunch providing the energy they need to enjoy pre-school.

Ideally, a healthy lunchbox will contain one item from each of the food groups: carbohydrate; fruit/vegetable; meat/fish or alternative; and dairy. Remember, a portion is the amount that will fit into a child's cupped hand.

### **Carbohydrate foods**

Foods like bread, pasta, rice, chapatti or couscous. A sandwich or some cooked rice would be good choices from this food group. Foods in this group are versatile and healthy.

### **Meat, fish or alternatives**

Cold meat, tinned fish, boiled egg or houmous are good options to put in sandwiches or have with past.

### **Dairy products**

Dairy foods are particularly important for growing children as they are a good source of calcium, needed for bone development and teeth.

Good sources of calcium are milk, cheese and yoghurt.

### **Fruit and vegetables**

It is important we all eat lots of variety from this group - at least 5 portions a day. Aim to include two portions; a child's portion might be the amount of food that would fit into your child's hand.

### **Fatty and sugary foods or drinks**

Try and avoid including items from this group - a small amount will be hidden in foods for example the margarine, mayonnaise on a sandwich or added sugar in a fruit yoghurt.

## Lunch box ideas

- Ham sandwich, small bag of salad (tomatoes, cucumber, spring onion and salad leaves) fruit yoghurt and a banana
- Cold cooked pasta mixed with tinned tuna, sweetcorn, grated carrot and baby spinach. An apple and a cheese slice
- Cold couscous and chicken pieces, small box of raisins fruit.

## **Just Playing**

By Anita Wadley

When I'm building a tower, please don't say I'm "just playing"

For you see, I'm learning as I play, about balance and shapes. Who knows? I may be an architect someday.

When I am getting dressed up, setting the table, caring for the babies.

Don't get the idea I'm "just playing". For you see, I'm learning as I play.

I may be a mother or a father someday.

When you see me up to my elbows in paint or standing at an easel, or moulding and shaping clay, please don't let me hear you say "He is just playing"

For you see, I'm learning as I play, I'm expressing myself and being creative.

I may be an artist or an inventor someday.

When you see me sitting in a chair "reading" to an imaginary audience.

Please do not laugh and think I'm "just playing".

For you see, I'm learning as I play.

I may be a teacher someday.

When you see me combing the bushes for bugs, or packing my pockets with choice

things I find, don't pass it off as "just playing". For you see, I'm learning as I play.

I may be a scientist someday.

When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or some "plaything" at school.

Please don't feel the time is wasted in "play".

For you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm learning to solve problems and to concentrate. I may be in business someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods, please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is

"just playing". I'm learning to follow directions and see differences.

I may be a chef someday.

When you see me learning to skip, hop, run and move my body, please don't say I'm "just playing". For you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm learning how my body works.

I may be a doctor, nurse or athlete someday.

When you ask me what I've done at school today, and I say, "I just played"

Please don't misunderstand me.

For you see, I'm learning as I play.

I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in my work. I'm preparing for tomorrow.

Today, I am a child and my work is play.

Thank you for your continued support.

Have an **AMAZING** Summer.

Liz Money  
Manager

