

Ide Hill Pre-School



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Newsletter No 4 - 19th February 2024

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Happy Half Term

We hope you all have an enjoyable half term. We return on Monday 19th February.

Welcome

We welcome this term, Freya, Harry and Amelia - we hope you will be very happy with us.

Pre-school Bills

To make our bookkeepers job a little easier - If you have said that you have paid, could you please check that the payment has actually left your account and provide a screenshot or similar, together with any voucher reference number, to make it easier and email this over to Jenny Smith - Jennifer Smith mrsjsmithtutoring@yahoo.com Additionally, please can you also ensure that you pay your bills by the deadline date as shown, as chasing parents' fees

takes so much time. Thank you for your co-operation.

Snack

Please could you send in donations of breadsticks/rice cakes/pitta bread, which we will use for snack. We have printed a label of items that we feel are good snack choices - this will be labelled inside the snack box. Thank you.

Felt Tip Pens/Pencils/Paper

We would love some new craft materials, felt tip pens/paper/stickers/lead pencils. Thank you.

Lunch Boxes

Please could you remember to Dettol spray your child's lunch box each day and place their drinks bottle in the dishwasher. Additionally, please can you 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. Thank you.

Easter Songs/Easter Hat Parade

We will be singing some Easter songs for you on the afternoon of **Thursday 28th March (13.45) (last day of term)** this will be for 45-60 minutes. We will also be holding our Easter hat parade (please can we ask parents to make a Easter Hat for your child for this day). We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Committee News/Coffee

Morning

I hope you have all had a good first half of the Spring Term? I would just like to say a big thank you again, for all your support and help in raising just over £1000 at Christmas time. This money has been put to great use already by purchasing some new resources for our children to play with. If you have not already done so, please have a look at the posts on Tapestry, to see some of these new toys. For our fundraising effort this term, we will be raffling off Easter Baskets. We will be asking for donations to put in the baskets soon, so please keep an eye out for more information. In the Summer Term, we will be having a Coin Trail, so please could we ask that you start saving your spare change so that we can make the longest trail possible around the playground and raise funds for the school. This could be a fun half term project for you and your little ones, to decorate a box or jar to save the coins in!

On another note, we will be having a coffee morning after school drop off on **Wednesday 21st February**. Coffee mornings are a great opportunity for us parents to get together for a chat, so it would be really lovely to see as many of you there as we can. I hope you all have a lovely half term break with your families.

Session Allocation

Session allocation forms will be sent out this term. Please ensure you add your required sessions from September 2024 - July 2025 in order to secure your child's place for September 2024.

Parents Mornings

We will be holding parent mornings **w/c 26 February and w/c 4 March** Mrs Ferguson's parent mornings take place **w/c 19th February** (please see boards with dates/times for your key person) we have placed a notice on the board outside pre-school - if you haven't signed up please do so after half term. Thank you.

Term Dates

We finish this term on **Thursday 28 March, this is a full day. (Easter show at 13.45)**

Pre-school closed Thursday 2nd May

Just to let you all know that the council have confirmed that the next election will take place on Thursday 2nd May in the Main Hall. Therefore, pre-school will have to close for that day. This is a full training day for staff.

Reading/Sharing a skill

Please let Mrs Money know if you would like to come into pre-school to read a story to the children. Also, if you have a skill, i.e. play an instrument, cookery etc we would love you to share this with us.

Questionnaires

Please could we have all questionnaires returned to pre-school ASAP - the feedback is invaluable for us to continue to remain an Outstanding pre-school.

Sevenoaks Districts Children's Centres

Children Centres are a wonderful service for families/communities.

We will be regularly updating you via tapestry on up to date support/advice/adult education courses, this spring/summer.

Early Years Foundation Stage and Other Useful Links

Here are links to some useful newly published documents.

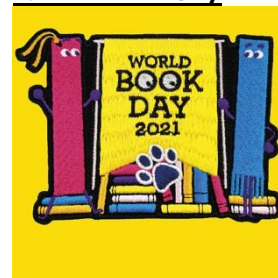
What to Expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage: a guide for parents:

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

Universally Speaking

https://ican.org.uk/media/3224/tct_univspeak_0-5_update.pdf

World Book Day



On O we will be celebrating 'World Book Day' at pre-school, the children are invited to come into pre-school dressed in a costume inspired by their favourite book character, along with their favourite story book to share with their teachers and friends. If your child does not attend pre-school on a Thursday, they are very welcome to dress up throughout week - on the days they do attend.

There will be a small prize for the best costumes.

Emails

Emails are consistently reviewed up until 5.00 p.m. each working day but **NOT** during the half term holiday or during weekends. However, please note that emails received outside normal working hours, may not be answered until the next working day.

Forest School

This term at Forest school we will be introducing children to: Pre-school rules/Kelly Kettle/Cooking on an open firepit/Bug hunting/den building/woodwork/whittling.

Please note your child will attend forest school once they turn 3.

Seed/Bulb Donations

Hopefully now the weather is warming up, we will be doing some gardening. We would be grateful for the following donations:-

Tomato seeds

Cucumber

Sunflower seeds

Strawberry plants

Potatoes

Wild flowers

Peppers

Odd Jobs

As we head into the Spring term, we shall be using the garden more. We would really appreciate some parents/grandparents to help us with a few jobs in the garden:-

Put a new lid on our sandpit

Paint the chalk boards

Move our slide

Paint wendy house

If this is something you/husband/grandparents can help with, please email Mrs Money. Thank you.

Beating those Winter Blues



February is a difficult month for most of us, with harsh weather conditions and dark evenings. So making sure our children's wellbeing is kept in tip top condition is not an easy task!!

However, it doesn't have to be an expensive affair, we thought you might like to hear five ideas/ways you can do just that Whether it's getting in touch with nature together, physical movement or just reading a story/watching a film ... all will help boost positive language with your child, impacting on their behaviour/wellbeing in winter time. Please take a moment to read our parent partnership link.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zndp6v4>

Winter Coats and Car Seat Safety

Please follow the link below - which discusses how children wearing bulky coats with car seats is dangerous.

<https://saferide4kids.com/blog/winter-coats-and-car-seats/>

Stars of the week



Our stars for last term are the following children.

Week 1 - Caspian - for excellent recall of the "Bear Hunt" story.

Week 2 - Shelby - For good listening at story time.

Week 3 - Lola Rose - lovely imagination.

Week 4 -- Lucia - settling in so well to pre-school

Week 5 - Max for excellent number recognition and counting.

Week 6 - Florence P - fantastic use of descriptive language in conversations.

EYFS Framework 2024 - 'Positive Relationships' / Review and Revision

One of the core principles of the revised EYFS framework September 2023 was to remove the burden of paperwork and record keeping that had arisen over recent years. Practitioners were spending too much time creating observations of children rather than interacting with the children themselves.

In the Moment Planning (ITMP) the ethos that Ide Hill pre-school follows - is an intuitive approach to EYFS with the core basis of the teaching being involved in the 'here and now' so each teachable moment can truly be used to the advantage of the child.

With children spending more time with their teachers - through an environment which is rich and exciting; the children are more likely to become more effective learners as they feel supported throughout the process.

Reviewing the amount of paperwork and observations has meant that as a pre-school we are ensuring that what we are recording is significant and useful to future planning and assessments, allowing for **quality rather than quantity.**

School Readiness

If a child can hold a pencil,
write their own name,
count to 100,
recognise all the colours & shapes.
But doesn't know how to make friends.
Manage their emotions
and conflict resolution.
To be independent
& have self help skills.
None of the other stuff matters.

The Curiosity Approach

Learning through Play

Our passion is learning,
But learning through play
We don't want to sit
We're not built that way.

Out in the water, we can
learn with such pleasure;
filling and pouring
Yet learning of measure

The sand pit; such fun
but imagine the teaching
Planning and building
Yet no-one is preaching

We use woodwork tools
We make our own toys
A wonderful craft
For girls and for boys

For fine motor skills
There are hammers and nails
Teaching us to keep trying
If our first attempt fails

Our imaginations on fire
We scribe our own stories
We love our thumbs up
We learn through our glories

We're making friends
Whilst improving our speech
Our environments our
classroom
Set out right to teach

There's nothing you can't
learn
By moving around
We wiggle and poke
With our bums on the ground

At Ide Hill pre-school
We build up resilience
We're proud and we're happy
to show off our brilliance.

Our passion is learning
But learning through play,
Don't sit us down
We're not built that way.