



Ide Hill Pre-School

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Ofsted
Outstanding
2009|2010

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Newsletter No 2 - 31 October 2011

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Welcome Back

We hope you all had an enjoyable break and welcome back to a very busy term.

New Children

We are also delighted to welcome our new children to pre-school.

Maia

Jack

Oscar

We hope they will be very happy with us.

Thank you

A special thank you to Claire Warde and Isabella who kindly invited the pre-school teachers, together with children and their parents to visit their vineyards in Westerham. We had the opportunity to watch the grape harvest and learn about the cycle of the vine. We all had a wonderful afternoon.

Our Theme

Our theme this term is Recycling. Please look at our website under Curriculum for our information and activity sheet.

This will help you to continue our theme at home. You can also access the Sounds of the week/colours/French words and numbers for the term. Our website address is www.idehillpreschool.org. A copy will also be on our notice board.

Term Dates

We finish this term on Friday 16th December.

Wednesday Sessions

From 4 January - 10 February, the Farmers Market are on their Winter break so we have access to the main hall on a Wednesday morning.

Therefore, we have 10 spaces available for one half term only. (If you have not used all your free funding this is the ideal opportunity.) Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please speak with Mrs Bicknell.

Parent Rota

A list of dates are on the notice board. We look forward to you joining us for a morning session or for just one or two hours.

There is also further information on the website under Parent Helper to inform you of the benefits of parents helping at school. If you are unable to join us for this term, further dates will be available throughout the coming year.

If you have a unique skill or would like to help with baking, craft, painting, please let us know. Unfortunately, due to insurance/health and safety, we are unable to accommodate siblings, as we can only have a maximum of 26 children in the hall at any one time.

"Old" Pupils' Reunion

We shall be holding our annual reunion on Friday, 11th November, from 3.30 - 4.30, for the children who left us in July. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our leavers and to find out how they have been getting on at "Big School".

Sound of the Week

Please could you help your child bring in something each week for our sound table.

- Week 1 - e
- Week 2 - h
- Week 3 - r
- Week 4 - m
- Week 5 - d
- Week 6 - g
- Week 7 - o

My Learning Journal

These are records for your child, which are sent out twice per year, once in the Autumn Term and once in the Summer term. Your key person will be handing these out to you the first week of term. Please complete the blue sections **only** and return to your key person ASAP. These journals are what your child's key person will put all their observations of your child into, as current parents will know. Please kindly also complete our new form "Planning for your child's interests and needs."

These should be handed in together with your learning journals to your key person by Friday 11th November.

Your observations together with ours taken during the session, will help us with the planning and extend their learning. Your key person will arrange a date before February half term to discuss your children's profiles and Learning Journals with you.

Genes for Jeans

This is a charity which helps children who are born with genetic disorders. We raised £17.00 thank you to all parents who made a contribution to this worthwhile charity.

Barnardos - 22nd November

Every year we choose to help a few charities by sending them a donation and this year we have chosen to support Jeans for Genes, Breast Cancer and the children's charity, Barnardo's. We will be holding our own Mini Olympics on Tuesday 22 November and **ALL** children are invited to take part. We will be issuing sponsorship forms after half term and welcome your help in supporting this worthwhile charity.

Meet and Greet Number 2

This has proven to be an extremely successful event. Our next "Meet and Greet" for our new families starting in January - April 2011 will be held on Wednesday 2 November 1.30 - 2.30.

Kent Discovery Bus

On Friday 18th November between 10.00-2.00 the Kent Discovery Bus will be visiting Ide Hill Pre-school. This is open to all children. For children who do not normally attend on a Friday morning, please arrive at pre-school for 10.00.



The vehicle comes complete with two large LCD screens, recycling area, exercise bike, gym twister, environmental posters, woodland area, match-a-bug activity, nocturnal animal habitat, storytelling area, mini beast tabards, global awareness resources, growing and healthy eating activities, puzzles and games, art activities and badge making. We look forward to a fun and interesting morning.



Birthdays

Leilah-Mae 5 November
Tru 16 November
Isabella 12 December
Alex 16 December
Jessica 21 December

ITERS

Symone Pearce, our setting's SIP (Setting Improvement Partner) carried out an ITERS (Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale) Assessment of our 2 ½ year old provision. This Audit allows early years settings to reflect upon the provision they provide for children, such as care routines, equipment, interaction, staff and parents to name a few. Each area is assessed and scored to the ITERS Scale.

As a district the average rating is 3.9; we are proud to inform you that the pre-school scored 6.1, out of a possible 7 which is one of the highest scoring provisions in Kent. Symone also praised the staff; the care and practice they provide for the children. Well done everyone.

Wellies

The children enjoy using the garden area and it would be helpful if they could bring a pair of **named** wellies to pre-school for wet days, please leave these by their pegs.

Welly walk dates will be on our website/planning sheets and on the notice board.

Lunch Boxes

Please could you remember to name your child's lunch box and water container thank you.

Pre-school Christmas Auction Evening

Please put in your diaries Friday 9th December at the village hall (time to be decided), for our Auction evening. If anyone has anything to donate please speak to myself or email Louise Dod at louisedod@talktalk.net.

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. All proceeds from the evening will be donated to the pre-school. Tickets will be issued shortly.

Christmas Celebrations

Our Nativity Play "A Brand New Star" will be held on Friday 16th December (which is the last day of term). We will inform you of your child's part before the end of November and we would kindly ask if you could make/buy a costume for this.

Children will arrive at normal school time in their costumes and the play will begin at 09.45. Following the production there will be a visit from a very special visitor followed by our Christmas Party. This will be run by the committee. Please see notice board closer to the time for details on food/drink/presents.

Enjoy your half term.

Warmest Wishes

Liz Money
Manager

