Ide Hill Pre-School

Telephone: 01732 750749 (Pre-school)
Pre-School Mobile: 07929 129567

Emails: liz@idehillpreschool.org

Website address: www.idehillpreschool.org

Newsletter No 4 – 19th February 2018

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Happy Half Term

We hope you all have an enjoyable half term.

Pre-school Bills

As you are aware, we are a charity run pre-school and rely heavily on parents' help with fundraising and doing extras around the pre-school.

At present, Sophia Lucocq-Thomas's Granddad, produces the bills and reconciles our pre-school accounts **free of charge**. He is finding it increasing difficult to reconcile monies against your bills. Therefore, if you have said that you have paid, you need to check it 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 Liz Money – 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.

Our Theme

Our theme this term is Fairy Stories. Please look at our website under Curriculum for our information and activity sheet which helps 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.

Felt Tip Pens/Pencils/Paper

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

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. Thank you.

Colour of the Week

Please could you help your children bring in something each week for our colour table.

Week 1 – Brown
Week 2 – Gold
Week 3 – White
Week 4 - Green
Week 5 – Red
Week 6 - Yellow

Learning Journal Meetings
We hope you found these useful, if you did not get the opportunity to speak with your key person, we can arrange alternative dates. The second parents morning will be held in July.

Book Day
Book day is on **Thursday 1st March.** Please send your child in with their favourite book.

Parent Questionnaire
Please remember to return your questionnaires to pre-school for those parents, who haven't already done so, your feedback is important to us.

Session Allocation
Session allocation forms will be sent out this term. Please ensure you add your required sessions from September 2018 - July 2019 in order to secure your child's place for September 2018.

Term Dates
We finish this term on **Thursday 29th March, this is a full day.**

Easter Hat Parade
Our Easter Hat Parade this year will be on **Thursday 29th March at 9.30 p.m. and finish by 10.30 a.m.** Please Note - The pre-school session will be a full day session for Thursday children.

All children and their families are invited to attend - please be at pre-school at 09.15 a.m. with hats. The parade will begin at 9.30 a.m. this will be followed by a few Easter songs performed by the children.

Parents are invited to make a hat with their children, it is really important for the children to contribute to these creations! There is a prize for the most creative hat designed by the children.

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

Forest School
We will go out in all weather except for strong winds (due to danger of falling branches.) Therefore, it is important that the children are prepared for the outdoors. This means keeping them dry and warm. Please ensure on the days your child is going to Forest school, they have adequate warm weather clothing i.e. a coat, hat, gloves, or waterproof suit, wellies and welly socks.

If the Forest School session is in the morning, please bring them in dressed in these clothes - thank you.

Revised Dads/Granddads to School
We recognise the importance of involving Dads/Granddads into our pre-school. Back by popular demand, we will be holding our "Dads/Granddads come to School Day" on **Monday 11th June a.m. and Thursday 14th June a.m.**
Please put these dates into your diaries.

The idea is that Dads/Granddads come along at 09.15 and join in with the many activities which will be available during the morning session i.e. cooking, woodwork, gardening, washing cars etc. We hope to see as many of you as possible on one of the dates.

Recycle Materials
Please recycle materials by bringing them in to enhance the following areas
Box modelling/creative work
Wicker baskets – all sizes
 A4 paper/card
Kitchen roll tubes (not toilet rolls)
 Small boxes/cartons
 Clean milk bottle tops
 Bits of ribbon/string/wool/felt/lace
 Wrapping paper/tissue paper/wallpaper
 Christmas cards/wrapping paper etc
Mark-making
 Old calendars
 Diaries
 Note books
 Post its
 Envelopes
 Other unwanted items of stationery

Lunch Clubs
We will be offering from Easter term onwards a lunch club after a morning session. The cost will be £3.50. If you would like to sign your child up for this please can you speak to Mrs Jepson. Spaces are limited so will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.
Thank you.

Amazon & Easyfundraising

We have been amazed by the wonderful generosity of parents who have purchased items from our wish list.

For our new parents, the Wish list (search for Ide Hill Pre-School in your own Amazon account wish list section) has a range of craft, play and educational equipment that we'd love to get for the children.

How do do it…..

If you go into your own amazon account, then click on wish lists (top right) and search for Ide Hill Pre School (should be on the left) you should find it.

There are various items to purchase, thank you so much.

Are you booking your summer holiday online? SIGN UP NOW to http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ and raise money for Ide Hill Pre-school, it doesn't cost you anything. (Go to its website and search for Ide Hill Preschool).

Furthermore, please remember if buying items on line, to go via the easyfundraising website - companies such as Amazon and John Lewis and many more will make a donation to the Pre-School every time you shop online.

Thank you so much.

Stars of the week

Our stars for last term are the following children.

Week 1 – Fleur – for being so kind to the younger children.

Week 2 – Ava for working really hard with her numbers.

Week 3 – Cerys – for wonderful descriptive language.

Week 4 – Joshua – for playing nicely with the other children.

Week 5 – Jack – for trying really hard to write his name.

Week 6 – Marcie – For being so kind to a new child.

Craft Trolley

This is our new craft trolley paid for from the Nativity fundraising; guess the weight of the cake, DVDs, raffle, teas/coffees. Thank you so much. We love it !

Loose Parts – Play

"Loose parts play" refers to a way of thinking, not just a collection of objects and is an exciting potential when children choose from a wide range of random objects. Loose parts, unleashes and empowers children's creativity; imaginatively creating their own visions, decision making, changing their minds, adding and subtracting materials, in the moment action crossing the curriculum using literacy, numeracy and even science. Children develop resilience and determination as they work to identify solutions to the many questions which occur during the process.

The end product is a fabulous result of valuable learning that has occurred during the amazing process of creation. Most importantly providing opportunities to express joyfulness and have fun !!

Loose Parts play at Home

No need to get rid of all your children's favourite toys … fantastic opportunities for re-cycling even items such as toasters, alarm clocks or old radio's to pull apart for investigate reconstruction or repurpose into something entirely different. Using small baskets for small world play, you can add blocks, leaves stones, sticks, pebbles, fabric scraps pine cones, buttons, pegs, even flowers. Recycling items you might normally throw away … paper rolls, plastic bottles, cardboard boxes, and even plumbing tubes.

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP US COLLECT FOR LOOSE PARTS PLAY? Loose Parts play is very inexpensive, many of the materials can be easily be sourced by just using your discarded items at home or in the community.

Here is a list of what we are hoping to gather for the children to use either natural, man-made or seasonal items :- Stones, stumps, twigs, logs, large branches, leaves, pipes, pebbles, cardboard boxes, tubes, wood pallets, balls, buckets, baskets, crates, rope, tyres, boxes, shells seedpods, wool, any craft materials, sheets, fabric pieces, old clocks, toasters kettles, garden pots, building materials, chain, wooden reels, containers, canvas, hoops, tools, bolts.

Some items may be either locational or seasonal … so there are exciting opportunities for family trips to the park, forest or beach to collect Loose Parts such as sea shells, drift wood or flora, this will also help the children learn about the changing seasons during the year. With Loose Parts Play the possibilities are endless … Who knows where our loose parts play adventures both at Pre-School and home will take us?

Find out more…cut and past this link into your internet page: file:///C:/Users/Liz/AppData/Local/Temp/Loose%20Parts%20By%20Schema_0.pdf

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."
—Mr. Rogers

Happy Half Term.