



# Ide Hill Pre-School

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## Newsletter No 4 – 22nd February 2021

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### Happy Half Term

We hope you all have an enjoyable half term.

### 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 Laura Piper - [lpipergb@gmail.com](mailto:lpipergb@gmail.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.

### Felt Tip Pens/Pencils/Paper

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

### Trampoline

If anyone sees a second hand small trampoline for sale please could you let Mrs Money know as we are needing one for the pre-school.

### 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.

### Session Allocation

Session allocation forms will be sent out this term. Please ensure you add your required sessions from September 2021 - July 2022 in order to secure your child's place for September 2021.

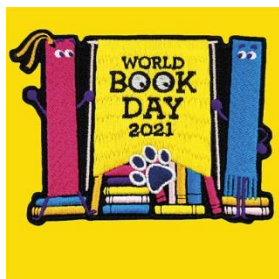
### Term Dates Revised

We finish this term on Wednesday 31 March, this is a full day.

## 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. Please also note Sevenoaks Districts Children's Centres Facebook page provides a timetable for 'Lockdown Learning' BBC Learning which may be of support for older siblings (5-7).

### World Book Day



On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 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. Like most things over the last year, World Book Day Campaign has been adapted due to Lockdown; there are some very exciting new developments/resources to access this year. Including some brilliant live videos of book token authors/illustrators - exciting

challenges/ activities making story book reading even more fun and interactive.

Please visit the website [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com) for more information.

We will also be emailing out 'digital' World Book Tokens this year - which will enable you to use your £1 book tokens on-line until the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### 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

This term at Forest school we will be introducing the new children/existing children to: Pre-school rules/Kelly Kettle/Cooking on an open fire/pit/Bug hunting/den building/woodwork/whittling. N.B. Forest school sessions will be taught in our pre-school garden, this term due to bubbles/staff ratios.

### 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

### 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.

## 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 - Alice - for excellent understanding regarding the corona virus.

Week 2 - Archie - for being so good at lunch time.

Week 3 - Zac - for excellent imagination through junk modelling.

Week 4 - Louie S - for always being so positive at pre-school.

Week 5 - Ned - for sharing excellent knowledge on the solar system and telling us about the 'black sun'.

Week 6 - Bubble 1 children - for making an excellent contribution to the "Colour Monster" activity.

### 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 recycling 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, 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?

#### 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.

Happy Half Term.