



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

Email: [manager@idehillpreschool.org](mailto:manager@idehillpreschool.org) Web - [www.idehillpreschool.org](http://www.idehillpreschool.org)

## **\*\*Newsletter No 2 – 21th October 2025\*\***

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Welcome to our Second Newsletter of the year. Firstly, I would like to express how proud we all are of all our new starters. They have all made an outstanding start to their first term, settling in with confidence and enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they have formed strong bonds with their keypersons, who have provided gentle guidance, reassurance, and encouragement every step of the way. These nurturing relationships have helped the children feel secure and valued, allowing them to explore new experiences and routines with growing independence. We are incredibly proud of how well the new children have adapted, and grateful to our dedicated team for making their transition such a positive and happy one.

### **A Note from Mrs Ferguson**

As the new manager of Ide Hill Pre-School, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful staff, children, and parents for making my first term such a delightful experience. Your kindness and support have made me feel truly welcome.

I am also excited to welcome our new members of staff, Mrs Carter and Mrs Young, who have quickly become an important part of our team. We are so pleased to have them with us and look forward to a fantastic year ahead together!

Thank you all for making Ide Hill Pre-School such a special place.





## Thank You

On behalf of the Ide Hill Pre-School team, we would like to extend our warmest thanks to all the parents who attended our Annual General Meeting on Monday, 29th September 2025. We truly appreciate the time you gave to support our pre-school community.

A special thank you goes to those parents who have volunteered to become committee members. Your commitment and involvement are both vital and invaluable, and we look forward to working together to make this year a great success.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support!



## Important Update: New Ofsted Framework from 1st November

From 1st November 2025, a new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework will be in place for all early year's settings, including pre-schools like ours. This updated framework changes the way Ofsted inspects and reports on early years providers, with the aim of making inspections fairer, more transparent, and more focused on what matters most for children's learning and well-being.

### **What's changing?**

- Instead of a single overall grade, settings will now receive a “report card” with grades across several key areas, such as safeguarding, inclusion, curriculum and teaching, achievement, behaviour and attitudes, children’s welfare and well-being, and leadership.
- The new grading scale includes: Exceptional, Strong Standard, Expected Standard, Needs Attention, and Urgent Improvement.
- Safeguarding will be judged separately as either “met” or “not met.”
- There is a greater focus on inclusion, leadership, and the well-being of both children and staff.
- Inspections will be more collaborative, with inspectors taking time to understand each setting’s unique context and strengths.



## Where can you find more information?

- You can read the full Ofsted Education Inspection Framework and supporting documents on the [GOV.UK website](#).
- For details about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, which sets the standards for learning, development, and care for children from birth to five, visit the [EYFS statutory framework page](#).
- If you'd like a parent-friendly guide to the EYFS, you can download one [here \(PDF\)](#).

If you have any questions about these changes or how they may affect your child's experience at pre-school, please don't hesitate to ask!

## Parent Mornings

We are pleased to announce that parent and carer consultations will take place during the week commencing Monday, 3rd November. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress and experiences with their keyperson. To arrange a convenient time, you will be able to book a slot using the forms, which will be available outside the preschool during pick-up and drop-off times. We encourage all parents and carers to take part in these consultations to help support your child's development and well-being.

Please note that, due to staffing ratios, each consultation will be limited to ten minutes. If you feel you need a longer discussion, your keyperson will be more than happy to arrange an additional meeting at a mutually convenient time.

## Information Evening-Update

As mentioned in our previous newsletter we are hoping to deliver an information evening for parents and carers. Unfortunately, we are unable to secure an evening booking of the hall this term so are looking at alternative dates/location. We will keep you updated.

## New Jingle and Jive Sessions – Why They Matter

We were excited to introduce our new 'Jingle and Jive' sessions this term, and we're delighted to see how much the children are enjoying them! These lively sessions combine music, singing, and interactive movement, creating a fun and engaging environment for all.

But Jingle and Jive is more than just fun—it's an important part of your child's learning and development. Music and movement are closely linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), supporting key areas such as:



- **Communication and Language:** Singing and rhymes help children develop listening skills, expand their vocabulary, and encourage expressive language.
- **Physical Development:** Dancing and movement activities improve coordination, balance, and gross motor skills.
- **Personal, Social, and Emotional Development:** Group music sessions build confidence, encourage cooperation, and help children express their feelings.
- **Creativity:** Exploring sounds, rhythms, and movement sparks imagination and creative thinking.

Through Jingle and Jive, children are not only having a wonderful time but also building important skills that support their overall growth and readiness for school.

We'll do our best to share as many session clips as possible on Tapestry, so you can see the fun and learning in action!



## Halloween Fun at Ide Hill Pre-school

We're excited to let you know that the children will be taking part in a variety of Halloween activities this year! To help us celebrate, we invite all children to come dressed up in their favourite costumes on Wednesday 29th and Friday 31st October. Whether it's a spooky skeleton, a magical witch, a friendly pumpkin, or even their favourite superhero or character! We can't wait to see everyone's creative outfits!

On both days, we'll be holding a Monster Mash Disco for the children—so get ready for some dancing, laughter, and lots of Halloween fun!

We will also be leaving a donation bucket outside the pre-school for any voluntary contributions from families whose children are dressing up. All donations will go towards the set and preparations for our forthcoming Nativity play. The Committee will also be selling raffle tickets for the chance to win a hamper full of Halloween goodies!

We look forward to celebrating this spooktacular time together!





## **This Terms Stars of the Week**

Harvey Foy – for fantastic maths skills -adding and subitising

Frida Stammer – Excellent counting and concentration skills

Louis Mayes – Trying new food



## **Getting Winter Ready**

As the weather turns chillier, please remember to label all your child's clothing, including hats, coats, and wellies. It's amazing how quickly jumpers and jackets can go on their own little adventures at pre-school!

Also, don't forget to send your child in with plenty of warm layers as we head into the colder months. We love to play outside in all weathers, so cosy clothes will help keep everyone happy and comfortable.

Thank you for helping us keep track of everyone's belongings and for making sure our little explorers stay snug!



## **Early Drop off**

We would like to remind you that there is an option of an early drop off time of 08:45am. For those parents who wish to drop their children off at 08.45 we will need to make a small charge to cover the additional staffing costs for this time. For you to drop your child/ren off at 08.45 instead of 09.00 the charge will be £5.00



This will be in addition to our normal session fees. For those parents who haven't already done so, please speak with Mrs Ferguson if you would like to swap to this time for the whole term.

## Christmas Nativity

It's that time of year again! Preparations are already underway behind the scenes for this year's Nativity play. Once all the parts have been allocated, your child's keyperson will let you know what costumes are required and which lines need to be practised at home. The Nativity performance will take place on the last day of term, Tuesday 16th, at 09:30. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you and hope all the children enjoy taking part in this festive tradition.



## Term Dates

Please see the notice board and the website. We finish this term on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** following our Nativity and Christmas celebrations. Our new term begins Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## 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.

## Sickness and Illness

To help ensure the health and safety of all children, staff, and families, we kindly remind parents and carers of our guidelines regarding sickness and illness. Should your child experience vomiting or diarrhoea, we ask that they remain at home for a minimum of 48 hours after their most recent episode. This precaution helps to minimise the risk of spreading viruses and bugs within our setting.

Additionally, if your child develops a temperature or requires medication such as Calpol to manage their symptoms, please keep them at home until they are fully recovered. Your cooperation in following these measures is greatly appreciated and helps us maintain a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

## Finally...

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a wonderful half-term week. We hope you all enjoy a restful and enjoyable break together. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to preschool after the holiday, ready for an exciting and engaging new term filled with fun activities and learning experiences.

**See you all soon! Mrs Ferguson and the Team at Ide Hill Preschool**