Ide Hill Pre-School



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Newsletter No 1– November 2026

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Welcome to our first newsletter of the year!

We are delighted with how well all the children have settled into the new academic year. Our younger children have quickly found their feet, becoming familiar with new routines, making friendships and growing in confidence each day. All the children have embraced the new term, and we are so proud of every one of them.

Please remember that Mrs Ferguson and the team are always on hand for a chat, so please do not hesitate to ask if you need to discuss anything.



Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Ide Hill Pre-School



Join the PTA or Committee

As we are a charity run pre-school, parent's involvement goes a long way in supporting us. We're looking for parents to share ideas and continue to support us. You can do this via the following two ways:

- **Join our PTA**
- **Join our committee**

Join our PTA

The PTA will raise funds, organise events and bring our preschool community together.

PTA responsibilities could include:

- Help organising fairs, fun days and other events.
- Help with the running of refreshment stalls at events.
- Supporting practical projects – such as improving our outdoor space.
- Organising coffee mornings and drinks evenings.
- Help organising seasonal celebrations.

There is no pressure – whether you can spare a little time or a lot, we'd be grateful for any help you can offer.

Join the Preschool Committee

Our preschool cannot run without our dedicated committee members. They play a more formal role, overseeing the day-to-day running of the setting.

The Committee responsibilities include:

- Keeping up to date with the preschool's safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Helping to make decisions about the preschool.
- Supporting the Manager and the rest of the team.
- Reviewing finances and fundraising priorities.



- Overseeing staffing and prioritising safer recruitment in all discussions.
- Planning for the preschool's long-term sustainability.

You don't need to be an expert. We will explain responsibilities and provide support.

Requirements for Joining the Committee:

As the committee members have formal responsibilities for a registered Early Years setting, they are required to:

- Complete an enhanced DBS check.
- Complete relevant Ofsted suitability process, including EY2 form.
- Receive confirmation of suitability.
- Understand their responsibilities around safeguarding, confidentiality and legal requirements.

Parents who volunteer for our committee provide the essential guidance and support that keeps our charity-run preschool going—we couldn't run without them, and we'd love you to join us.

Whichever role you choose, there is no pressure to take on more that you can manage.

We understand that family life is busy and that extra commitments may not always be possible. Please feel reassured that there is no expectation to join the PTA or Committee. We respect every family's circumstance and want you all to feel welcome and included in our preschool community.

If you want to find out more or would like to volunteer, please talk to our Committee Chair - Chantelle Dixon



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Talking Walk–In Service Reminder

This service gives families the opportunity to speak directly with a Speech and Language Therapist, discuss any concerns, and receive practical advice and strategies to support their child at home. It can be a helpful first step if you are unsure whether your child may need additional support with their communication skills.

For more information about the service and details of local Talking Walk-In sessions, please visit:

https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/childrens-therapies-speech-and-language/

Early support can make a real difference to a child's communication, confidence, and readiness for school. If you have any concerns, we encourage you to take advantage of this valuable local service. 💬 😊



Important Reminder for All Parents

Safer Eating and Choking Prevention

As part of our commitment to keeping all children safe, we would like to remind parents that certain foods can pose a choking risk for young children and must be prepared appropriately before being brought into preschool.



Please ensure that:

- **Grapes are cut lengthways and into quarters**
- **Blueberries and other small round fruits are cut into small pieces**
- **Sausages are cut lengthways into thin strips rather than round slices**

Current government and NHS guidance advises that small, round foods such as grapes, berries and sausages present a higher choking risk for young children if not prepared correctly. Children under five are particularly vulnerable because their chewing and swallowing skills are still developing.

For further information, please see the official guidance:

- NHS: Preparing Food Safely for Babies and Young Children [nhs.uk]
- Government Choking Hazards Guidance (PDF) [assets.pub...ice.gov.uk]

Thank you for your support in helping us to maintain a safe eating environment for all children. If you have any questions about suitable foods for preschool, please speak to a member of staff.



Kent's Starting Strong Family Guide

We are pleased to share Kent's *Starting Strong: A Guide for My Family*. This useful guide helps families understand what they can expect from their



child's early years setting and how settings support children's learning, wellbeing, and development.

You can read the guide here: Starting Strong Family Guide

We hope you find it helpful!

Spare Clothes

As the weather is becoming much wetter, muddier and colder, please could we ask that all children have a spare set of clothes in their bag, including socks and underwear where possible.

We enjoy spending lots of time outdoors in all weathers, and despite our best efforts, puddle jumping, muddy play and wet grass can sometimes lead to soggy clothes! Having spare clothing available helps us keep your child comfortable and happy throughout their session.

Thank you for your support.



Nativity Play

It is hard to believe that the time has already come for us to begin practising for our Preschool Nativity! The children always enjoy taking part in this special Christmas tradition, and over the coming weeks we will be busy learning the songs, practising our actions, and getting ready for the big performance.

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Please save the date in your diaries. Our Preschool Nativity will take place on the **last day of term, Friday 18th December at 10:00am**. We are very much looking forward to sharing this special event with you and creating some wonderful festive memories together. 🎄 ✨



Christmas Celebrations

Following our Nativity performance, we will be holding a special Christmas Party where the children can celebrate together with their friends and enjoy some seasonal fun and treats. During the week beginning **Monday 14th December**, we invite all children to come dressed in their favourite Christmas jumper or festive fancy-dress outfit.

We are also delighted to be bringing back our much-loved **Polar Express Morning** on **Thursday 3rd December**. The children will be invited to climb aboard for a magical festive adventure filled with Christmas stories, imagination and plenty of seasonal surprises. 🎄 ✨ 🚂



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Belonging Tree and Street Scene

To help children feel happy, settled and part of our preschool family, we have a **Street Scene** with photos of the children's homes and a **Belonging Tree** with photos of their families. These displays help children make links between home and preschool and support their sense of belonging, confidence and communication.

If you are new to preschool, please upload: A photo of your child's home, and a family photo.

If you have already provided photos, you are very welcome to upload an updated family picture.

Please add your photos to **Tapestry**, and we will print them for our displays.

Thank you for helping us celebrate what makes each child special!



Forest School

All our older children will enjoy Forest School this term, whatever the weather! Please send your child dressed for a morning outdoors when it's their turn. The Forest School list is available on Tapestry.



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Finally....

We're so looking forward to another wonderful term with your lovely children at Ide Hill Preschool. Christmas brings a special joy to our preschool family, and we can't wait to share plenty of fun and laughter and make cherished memories with your children and families.

Last day of term – Friday 18th December

Start of term 3 – Monday 4th January