



## NEWSLETTER

December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Our Learning**

This term, we have focussed on traditional stories. The children are now all familiar with the stories of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Little Red Hen and The Three Little Pigs. It has been such a pleasure to hear the children joining in with the repeated refrains and choosing to re-enact the stories in their play.

Our older children have been playing phonics games in which the focus has been exploring and listening to different sounds. This is also embedded across our daily routines for all children. Please see Annie if you would like any more information about phonics.

We are also delighted to see so much mark-making happening around the setting. This is the beginning of writing, and our children are increasingly choosing to do this both indoors and in the garden. Having a wide variety of interesting resources will really support this, so if you have any unused paper, notebooks, diaries, calendars etc, we can put them to great use!

Outdoor learning has been a huge success this term and we are delighted to tell you that following a successful inspection from her course tutor, Kelly has almost completed her Forest School training. We are therefore hoping to offer Forest School on our dedicated site in January.

### **Children in Need**

During Children in Need week, the children were busy baking cakes to sell at the end of each day. This supported the children's learning and development in so many ways - from the 'hands on' baking experience to thinking about others who are less fortunate, and even a little maths as they helped us to count the takings! Our grand total at the end of the week was £55.23. Thank you so much for your generous contributions.

### **Clothing**

We go outside in all weathers. As the days get colder please can you ensure that your child comes to Pre-School with suitable named clothing? This includes warm coats, scarves, hats and gloves or mittens. We have a selection of waterproofs that we can use, but please feel free to bring in your child's own set if you prefer (they may well be thicker).

## Thank you

Over the past few weeks, so many of you have been busy supporting the Pre-School in different ways. We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to you all. Many thanks to all the parent helpers (and grandparents too) who have given up their time to come and work and play with the children.

Many thanks also to our fundraisers Steve (Freya's Daddy) Tom and Will (Edward's Daddy and cousin) Ian (Alice's Daddy) Steve (Izzi's Daddy) and Tom (Ava's Daddy) who came and helped with the collection at the Bonfire Night celebrations in Wallingford. This raised an amazing £900 for the setting! This was made possible by the local charity Wallingford 1155. They have very kindly given us the opportunity to take part in next year's collection, so please make a date in your diary for that!



The 'team' being presented with their cheque

Similarly, others gave up a Saturday morning to help clear the garden. Our thanks go to Toni and Tom (Ava's Mummy and Daddy); Victoria (Fenwick's Mummy) and Steve (Izzi's Daddy). There are so many ways in which you can become involved with our Pre-School community – joining the Committee, helping with fundraising or gardening and DIY jobs, sharing a particular skill with us or simply popping in to read a story. If you would like more information, please contact Annie or any of the Committee members.

## Farewell to Vikki

We are very sad to be saying 'farewell' to our wonderful administrator Vikki at the end of this term. Vikki has been at Crowmarsh Pre – School for almost seven years and has been such an asset to parents and staff alike! We wish her all the very best for the future. We are in the process of recruiting and will update you in the next newsletter.

## Parents' evening

Our Parents' Evening will be held on Wednesday 6th December from 6 – 9pm. Please sign up on the sheets at Pre-School. We appreciate that this may not be convenient for all of you. Please speak to your child's keyperson if you would prefer to arrange a meeting during the day.

## Maths research

The researchers will start working with us from Tuesday 5th December. Please complete and return your consent form if you would like your child to take part. Spares are available if you have misplaced the original! Please note, this is hugely popular with the children, but the researchers are only able to work with those children for whom they have received consent.

## Christmas activities

Over the next few weeks, we will be busy with Christmas crafts and activities. As some of these will be a surprise for you, we can't tell you too much!! One of the activities will be wrapping different sized boxes. This supports the children's physical development as they use scissors and tape, as well as their mathematical learning as they compare the different sizes and work out how much wrapping paper they need to use. We would be most grateful if you could bring in any unwanted boxes and/or paper.

Please note we are a NUT FREE setting

We are also looking for empty, washed tuna cans – we can't tell you why though!!

### **Christmas Party**

All children and parents are invited to our Christmas party on the last day of term – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 11.30 – 1.30. The team will offer games and activities and the children will perform their Christmas songs and enjoy some yummy party food (a sign up sheet will be available closer to the date). If we're all good, we may have a visit from Santa too!!

Pre-School will remain open as usual until 3pm as usual, but you are welcome to take your child home at the end of the party if this is more convenient. Please note, if your child does not normally attend on a Tuesday, you will need to stay with them throughout the party.

### **Curry in a Bag**

Santa's Elves are busy packing a Christmas treat with a hint of spice! This is an alternative Christmas gift in a bag which contains spices, fresh herbs, onion, garlic, clove, tomatoes and rice along with a laminated recipe card – perfect for that leftover turkey! The price will be £4, with all profits going to Pre-School. If you would like to buy one (or more!!), please complete the order form in the cloakroom. Your package will be ready for collection on the last day of term (or sooner if needed).



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Annie, Vikki, Kelly, Emmanuelle, Tanya, Jamie and Marilyn  
Your Pre-school team.

### **Term dates 2018**

#### **Term Three**

Thursday 4 January, 2018 - Friday 9 February, 2018

*Spring Half Term*

*Saturday 10 February, 2018 - Sunday 18 February, 2018*

#### **Term Four**

Monday 19 February, 2018 - Thursday 29 March, 2018

*Easter Holidays*

*Friday 30 March, 2018 - Sunday 15 April, 2018*

#### **Term Five**

Monday 16 April, 2018 - Friday 25 May, 2018

*Summer Half Term*

*Saturday 26 May, 2018 - Sunday 3 June, 2018*

#### **Term Six**

Monday 4 June, 2018 - Wednesday 25 July, 2018

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