



NEWSLETTER

November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome

Welcome back everybody! We hope that you had a good half term break. We would like to welcome our new children – Sadie and Jackson and their families to Pre – School. We are also very happy to welcome our new member of staff, Marilyn to our team. Marilyn joins us from Dorchester Pre-School.

Traditional stories

This term we will be looking at traditional stories. The children have enjoyed listening to 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' this week. They have also been re-telling the story using props, learning a new song and playing a counting game based on the story. Next week we will be enjoying 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' – watch out for that troll.....!

Tapestry

We are very happy to let you know that Tapestry is going live! You will soon be able to access your child's online learning journey. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments – we would welcome your feedback.

Hoot

As you will know, all the children are given the opportunity to take our pet owl Hoot home with them for an evening. This is extremely popular with the children, who love to tell us all about their 'adventures' on the following day! From this term onwards, the children are also being encouraged to borrow a book from Pre-School to share with you at the same time (many thanks to Freya's Mummy for the suggestion!)

Starting School in September 2018

If you have a child due to start school in reception class next September, please note that the closing date for application is 15th January 2018. Applications may be made on-line at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like help and support with this process. There will be an open morning at Crowmarsh Gifford C of E Primary School for prospective parents on Tuesday 14th November, from 9 – 10am.

Parents' Evening

We are planning to hold an informal Parents' Evening at the start of December. Further details to follow.

Toys from home

If at all possible, please can you discourage your child from bringing in toys from home. Whilst we try to encourage them to keep these in their bags, they are often reluctant to do so and it is so upsetting for them if they get lost or broken.

Nut allergy

A polite reminder that all food must be NUT FREE as there are several children on both sites with severe nut allergies. Please check all labels, and be mindful of 'hidden' nuts in items such as pesto, cereal bars and chocolate spreads like Nutella.

Maths research

This term we have been offered an exciting opportunity to take part in a large- scale research project with Oxford University on the subject of young children's mathematical learning. A member of the research team will be with us at the start of the session on Tuesday (7th November) to hand out information packs and consent forms and to answer any questions you may have. If your child does not attend on a Tuesday, we will put your information pack in their tray. Please be assured that participation in the project is entirely voluntary.

Children in Need

We are going spotty for this year's Children in Need! Throughout the week beginning 13th November, our children will be baking cakes and the children in Class R will be baking biscuits which we will sell at the end of each day. In addition, on Friday 17th November staff and children alike will be invited to wear something spotty in exchange for a small donation. All proceeds will go to Children in Need.

Uniforms

We now have T shirts and sweatshirts back in stock. T-shirts are £5 each and sweatshirts £8.50. These come in ages 3-4 years and 5-6 years.

Parent helpers

Thank you to everyone that has already signed up on the parent help rota for this coming term. It would be wonderful to have an adult helper for each session if possible. This could be a parent, carer, relative, child minder or nanny. If you are unable to stay for a whole session, you would be very welcome to come and read stories with us for 15 minutes at the end of the day. Alternatively, perhaps you have a special interest, skill or hobby that you could share with us? Please let us know – you are all very welcome!

Garden Clean Up

There are lots of jobs that need doing around the garden and in the setting. These are very difficult to carry out when the children are here in the setting. We are therefore planning a great garden clean up on Saturday 25th November from 9.00 – 11.00am. Coffee, doughnuts and bacon butties will be provided for the workers. All volunteers welcome – the more the merrier. Please let us know if you are able to help.

Christmas Party – Save the date

We will be holding the children's Christmas party on the last day of term – Tuesday 19th December from 11.30 – 1.30. All children and parents are invited to attend. During the party, the children will be 'performing' some Christmas songs and rhymes (details to follow nearer the time). We will be asking for volunteers to bring in food and to set up the tables beforehand.

A few reminders....

- Please remember to check your child's tray regularly. All invoices and written communication will be placed in them, along with party invitations, children's artwork and information about local events.
- Please feel free to browse through and borrow any of the books and leaflets on the shelves to the left of the door in the cloakroom.
- In order to avoid congestion outside the school, we ask that you park at either The Queen's Head or The Bell and walk over with your child. Please follow the yellow footsteps to safely access the pre-school. We ask you to not walk across the car park.
- We are a phone-free setting - mobile phones may not be used on the premises. Staff and volunteers are all required to store their phones in a basket in the office. This is a safeguarding requirement.
- All gates will be kept locked whilst we are in session. Please ring the doorbell or call the office if you need to be let in at any time.
- We are sorry that our mobile telephone is currently not in use. Please telephone the landline on 01491 526115. Or email us at manager@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk

Finally...

We welcome any suggestions, comments or feedback. You are always very welcome to speak to any of us at any time. We keep the doors and gates locked to keep the children safe – not to keep you out! Parents and carers are welcome into the setting at any time!

Best wishes from all the team,

Annie, Vikki, Kelly, Emmanuelle, Tanya, Jamie and Marilyn.

Term dates 2017 – 2018

Term One

Tuesday 5 September, 2017 - Friday 20 October, 2017

Autumn Half Term

Saturday 21 October, 2017 - Sunday 29 October, 2017

Term Two

Monday 30 October, 2017 - Tuesday 19 December, 2017

Christmas Holidays

Wednesday 20 December, 2017 – Sunday 7th January, 2018

Term Three

Monday 8th 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

INSET Day July 9th



Designed by Poppy H & Steph S. Chaisey Learning Champions

Step Forward Learning Hub presents

**in partnership with Abingdon and Witney College family Learning
and Crowmarsh C of E Primary school**



Keeping up with your children

Maths

Start date Tuesday 7th November

9:30am-11.30am

5-week course

Crowmarsh C of E Primary School

Crowmarsh Gifford

Free

This course is aimed at parents and carers who wish to help support their primary school aged children with their Maths.

Learn how it is taught in school and how to help them with homework.

For more information or to book your place please contact thefirststepforward@hotmail.com

Or the school office on 01491 836785

Family Learning



**Oxfordshire
Adult
Learning**

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