



## NEWSLETTER

October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our children have had a busy first term back and we are delighted that everyone appears happy and settled.

### Our Learning

We are starting to make slight changes to the way in which we work, so that our planning and themes reflect the children's current interests. This term, we have been busy digging for worms, going on bug hunts in the garden, making spiders, washing cars, measuring and cooking to name but a few! There has been lots of independent mark-making throughout all areas of Pre-school with children making registers, making their own name labels and creating shopping lists. We have also enjoyed our outdoor learning sessions on a Monday afternoon. Many of the children have learnt how to put on their coats independently, and have hopefully been teaching you the 'coat trick'! We have also enjoyed our outdoor learning sessions on a Monday afternoon.

### Harvest

Thank you so much for your generous harvest donations of tins and packets. The children enjoyed creating a harvest box decorated using art to create their favourite fruit and vegetables. On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September our children visited Crowmarsh Gifford Primary school to watch Class R's performance which was a delight especially as our children got to see some of our old friends.

### Sports Skills

On a Wednesday morning our children have an opportunity to develop their sports skills with Mr Hunt the PE teacher. All our children are visiting with the Pre-school staff on a weekly basis. Please can your child have flat shoes such as pumps or trainers? We kindly ask that no wellies are used for PE to allow the children to move with ease.

### Clothing

Please continue to **label** all your child's belongings – this makes it so much easier to match up shoes, slippers, coats etc to the correct child! If you haven't managed to get around to this yet, even a name written in personal belongings with a pen is more useful than no name! Thank you in anticipation. Lost and found items are located on the shelf in the cloakroom and kept until the end of term.

Please note we are a NUT FREE setting

## One off sessions

At the moment, we are able to offer '**one off**' sessions. These are always useful at this time of year for extra Christmas shopping expeditions, appointments etc. If you would like to book one, please email us at [manager@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk](mailto:manager@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk) with your request and we will do our best to accommodate you. Please note, these are on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Absences

If your child is going to be **absent** from pre-school, for any reason, could you please phone in on 01491 526115, before 9am, to let us know?

## Outdoor Learning

Our children continue to participate in Outdoor learning on the school site on a Monday afternoon between 1 and 3pm. Please can you send your child to Pre-School with appropriate clothing for this (long sleeves and long trousers and boots). We would love to have a parent helper with us during these sessions – they are great fun and hot chocolate and biscuits are provided! If you are interested, please either let Kelly know, or sign up on the Parent Help Rota in the cloakroom.

## 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](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions) Alternatively, applications may be made using the Common Application Form (Junior) located at the back of the 'Starting School' book available from Oxfordshire County Council. 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 14<sup>th</sup> November, from 9 – 10am.

## Packed lunches

Some parents have asked for guidance about what to pack in their child's lunchbox. We would encourage a healthy selection, to include a savoury item such as a sandwich or pasta (we always ask the children to eat this first), along with a selection of fruit and vegetables and perhaps a yogurt. If you are including grapes, these need to be cut in half **lengthwise**, to minimise the risk of choking.

Please note, 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 such as Nutella.

## Keeping everyone healthy and safe

We would like to remind you that if your child is unwell please keep them at home where possible to minimise the spread of illness amongst the children and staff. **Please note, if your child has suffered from sickness and/or diarrhoea, they may not return to Pre-school until 48 hours after the last bout of illness.**

For the sake of **your child's safety**, please remember not to cross the car park when entering or leaving pre-school, but to walk along the pathway following the yellow footsteps. Please also ensure that you close the gate behind you at drop off and drop off times.

Finally, a polite reminder to everyone that **mobile phones must not be used on the premises**. Please ensure that you put your phone away before entering the premises. All staff, visitors

and parent helpers are asked to store their phones in a cupboard in the office. This is a safeguarding requirement.

We appreciate your support in keeping the Pre-school a safe and healthy place for everyone.

Finally....

I would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome during my first month at Pre-School. It is a privilege to work with such amazing children, families and staff.

I am always available for a chat, so please feel free to come and see me with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have.

Annie

#### Dates for your diary

20<sup>th</sup> October – End of Term One

30<sup>th</sup> October – Start of Term Two

1<sup>st</sup> November Committee meeting

14<sup>th</sup> November Open Morning 9.30 – 10.30

15<sup>th</sup> November - Committee AGM

13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November Children in Need week (details to follow later)

19<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas party (to be confirmed).

Best wishes,

Annie, Vikki, Kelly, Emmanuelle, Tanya and Jamie

Your Pre-school team.

#### **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 - Wednesday 3 January, 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