



Term 2 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 2. This term we are delighted to welcome Joseph and his family to Pre-School.

This is one of our busiest terms as we prepare for Christmas! At Crowmarsh Pre-School, we put children's learning and development at the centre of all we do. It follows that our Christmas activities will all offer meaningful learning experiences for the children, rather than a 'production line' of Christmas crafts. For example, we will be offering planting, cooking, walks to the post box, card - writing and present wrapping as well as learning some new songs and rhymes.

Staff changes

We are sad to announce that Jamie will be leaving us at the end of this week. Jamie has been with us for 1 ½ years and has been a very valued member of the staff team. We all wish her well for the future.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new team member, Nicola Vaughan on December 10th. Nicola is an experienced Level 3 practitioner who will be working full time at Crowmarsh.

Thank you

Huge thanks to all the parents who came along to help with fundraising at the Wallingford fireworks display earlier this month. The gates were very busy - we will let you know how much was raised as soon as we hear!

Parents' Evening

We will be holding an informal Parents' evening on Thursday 15th November from 6.30 – 8.00. Please select an appointment from the list in the classroom. If you are unable to make this date, please speak to your keyperson to arrange a suitable time within the session.

Garden clear up

A reminder that we will be having a garden and Forest School working party this Saturday from 9.30 -11.00. Please sign up if you are able to help. Bacon butties will be served at 9.15!

Listening walks

This week we introduce listening walks with the aim to develop children's listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment. At home you can support your child by doing the same: Begin by touching your ears (to demonstrate that we hear sounds with our ears) and ask your child "What is that sound?" Describe the sound to them and tell them where it's coming from, before you give the answer. For example: "What's that sound? It's humming, it's coming from the sky! It's an aeroplane!" Please let us know how your child gets on if they continue this at home.

Clothing

We will continue to go outside in all weathers throughout the winter. Please ensure that you provide your child with plenty of warm layers, hats, scarves and gloves, boots and waterproof clothing as well as changes of clothes for the inevitable splashing in puddles! Please could you also provide a carrier bag for wet clothes?

Applying for a School Place for 2019

It is now time to make your applications for your child to start in reception in September 2019. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2019 and the offer date for on-time applications is 16th April 2019. The most secure method of submitting your application is online. Please go to the website below to do so:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/starting-school/infant-and-primary-school>

Alternatively, you can contact the Schools Admissions team on 0345 241 2487 for a paper application form. The booklet 'Starting School' is also available on the County website.

We will be offering an opportunity to explore 'School Readiness' for all parents of children who will be starting school in September. This will be held jointly with Pre-School and Class R. Please note, this will be open to all parents, regardless of which school your child will be attending in September. Date to be confirmed.

Cake sale and Christmas Jumper Day

This week we will be raising money for Children in Need. The children will all bake cakes to sell at the end of each session. We will leave a donation box out for you.

On December 14th, we will take part in Christmas Jumper Day. The children will all be invited to wear Christmas jumpers, and bring in a donation. All proceeds from this will go to Save the Children.

Kelly's Forest School update

Please keep your eyes on the Forest school board which is located next to the main door as you enter the Pre-School room. The children are beginning to share 'outdoor learning' with the team exploring the environment, using the walking rope, looking for signs of the changing seasons, mini beasts and visiting the school's hen. Outdoor Learning will be held on a Thursday afternoon. Before we can offer Forest School, I will need support to walk with us and assist at the Forest School site from an adult which could be a grandparent, auntie/uncle etc. Please let Kelly know if you can support with this opportunity in the term. (Approximate timings 1.20-3.00).

We are hoping to alternate the day throughout the school year to allow as many of the children as possible the opportunity to attend Forest School.

Christmas Party – Save the Date

This will be held during the session on the last day of term, Friday, 21st December in Crowmarsh Village Hall. All children and parents are invited. We will be asking parents to provide food and to help with setting up and clearing away on the day. Further details to follow.

A note from Kelly

Thank you so much for making our wedding celebrations so special here at Pre-School. The love and support you shared with me was overwhelming and appreciated gratefully. I was showered with cards, pictures, fun and confetti as the children waved me off in the playground on the co-operative bike on Tuesday as I left for the wedding.

It was so lovely to share the day with the ladies in the team and some of the children who met me at the church as a surprise. Little Wittenham will always be a special place for us!

I would love to share some photos with the group on Thursday 22nd November, please pop in first thing to say hello!

Dates for your diary

Thursday 15th November 6.30 – 8.00 Parents' Evening

Saturday 17th November 9.15 -11.00 – Garden clear up

Friday 14th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 21st December – Last day of term. Christmas party (time to be confirmed)