

Chair's Newsletter - September 2017



A slightly belated welcome back to our returning children and families after the summer and a very warm welcome to all our new families. There's a lot going on as we start the new academic year.

AGM

We held our Annual General Meeting on 12th September and, following a unanimous vote, we will begin the process of converting the pre-school into a different type of charity (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation). This won't change anything in the day-to-day running of the pre-school or make any difference to the experience of the children. However, it will provide greater protection for the trustees of the charity (the parents' committee). All being well, the new charity will be in place on 1st September 2018 and there will be a seamless transition from the current charity to the replacement.

Talking of trustees, eight were voted in at the AGM for the academic year 2017-18. While the staff team plans and runs the sessions at pre-school, the overall management rests with the trustees, who make up the parents' committee.

There are eight posts, which this year are being filled by:

Chair: Fiona Lee
Treasurer: Esther Boustead
Secretary: Zoe Jeffries
Communication & Publicity: Sarah Holliday
Banker: Susie Grundy
Fundraiser: Alaina Broster
Librarian: Suzie Speed
Health & Safety: Hannah Hayden

Being on the committee is a great way of getting to know other parents and contributing to the success of the pre-school. And without the committee, the pre-school couldn't function! We're always looking for extra help, particularly with fundraising, so if you're interested in getting involved, please speak to a member of the committee or drop me an email.

Government-funded childcare

Unfortunately we aren't able to offer the 30 hours' funding which is now available to some parents, as we cannot increase our opening hours due to other longstanding bookings of the church hall.

However, parents can use their 'universal' 15 hours of funding which is available to all children from the term after they turn three. Please see Jo in plenty of time to complete the paperwork necessary for us to claim the funding on your behalf. A maximum of three hours' funding can be used in any one session, and the funding cannot be used for lunch cubs.

We have also signed up to the new tax-free childcare scheme which is being rolled out to replace childcare vouchers - more information is available at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Pre-school uniform

Pre-school T-shirts and sweatshirts are available to buy: T-shirts are £7.50 each or two for £14. Sweatshirts are £9.50. Uniform is not compulsory, but some of the children really enjoy wearing it and it's good preparation for school. We have a few short sleeved T-shirts left and have just run out of sweatshirts. Please let me know if anyone would like a sweatshirt and I'll put in an order. They come in age 3-4 (104cm) or 5-6 (116cm).

Christmas

With apologies for mentioning Christmas already, you'll soon be able to order Christmas cards featuring your child's design through pre-school. It's a lovely way to help us raise a little money!

Following the nativity play on Friday 15th December, we'll be holding a raffle and bake sale in the church hall. It's a really nice way to end the term, and again helps us to raise money for the pre-school. All are welcome to the nativity and bake sale so please do invite grandparents, aunts, uncles, and so on.

If you have any questions, just ask me, Jo or one of the other committee members.

All the best,

Fiona (Chair and Ben's mum)