

# NEWSLETTER



## SEPTEMBER 2022

We hope you have all had a fantastic summer in the sunshine and we are looking forward to welcoming all of the children to Pre-School. We have been very busy working hard to get Pre-School looking fantastic ready for September!

### TOPICS FOR THE HALF TERM

Please be aware that we always encourage child initiated play and learning and follow the children's ideas or interests. Therefore, this may take us away from the planned topics or activities.

This half term our main topics will be **Me, Myself and My Family**

<b>Week commencing</b>	<b>Topic/s</b>	<b>Colour of the week</b>
5th-9th September	Settling in	Yellow
12th-15th September	Settling In- My family Book	Blue
19th-23rd September	My Family and My Home	Green
26th – 30 <sup>th</sup> September	My favourite Books	Pink
3rd-7th October	Days Out	Purple
10th-14th October	In the Garden	Red
17th-21st October	Autumn	Orange
24th-28th October	Half Term	

Each day we will offer a craft activity, generally linked to the topic of the week, but children are also encouraged to investigate the wide selection of resources available. Therefore, items made on the craft table will often vary and reflect the children's interests, preferences, and exploration of the available resources.

**PLEASE EMAIL MISS WILKINS OR BRING IN A RANGE OF PHOTOS AROUND 10 OF YOUR CHILD'S FAMILY AND INTERESTS AS WE ARE CREATING A PHOTO JOURNAL WITH YOUR CHILD.**

Craft activities can get messy and whilst we do encourage the children to wear aprons, we cannot guarantee that items of clothing will remain clean. Please encourage your child to wear clothing that is not too special and allows them freedom of movement.

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## **REGISTRATION PACK**

If you have not done so already please make sure you return your completed enrolment forms to Pre-School ASAP. These forms provide staff with important information about your child that support a smooth transition process and are crucial to our understanding of your child's individual needs.

## **WELCOME PACK**

Please make sure you have read the attached Welcome Pack which provides you with lots of information before your child starts Pre-School.

## **COFFEE MORNING - THURSDAY 29th SEPTEMBER**

Everyone is welcome, even if your child does not usually attend on a Thursday, they are more than welcome to join us in the setting whilst you are having a tea or coffee. We do ask that you remain on the premises if your child does not normally attend on this day.

Coffee Mornings are an opportunity for you to look at your child's Learning Journal, however if you are not able to attend you are welcome to ask your child's keyworker to see their Learning Journal at any other time. Coffee Mornings will continue to take place on alternating days of the week, once every half term, throughout the academic year.

## **SHOW AND TELL ITEMS**

PLEASE label any items your child brings from home to show at the beginning of the session and avoid bringing anything valuable or precious. We try to encourage a link to the topic or colour of the week. However, if a particular item will support your child come to Pre-School confidently then that is absolutely fine.

## **LABELLING**

PLEASE remember to label your child's bag, coat, sun hat and anything else they may want to bring in. A clear label on the strap or a tag of their bag makes things much easier for us when a child's nappy or clothing needs to be changed. Thank you.

## **WHATSAPP**

If you would like to be added to the Pre-School Parent whatsapp please contact Winston's Mum (Tilly) – 07792265256.

## **FOREST SCHOOLS**

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We are delighted to be regularly introducing 'Forest Schools' on a **Tuesday Morning**, this will entail a walk to the woods with exciting and engaging activities for the children. Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed on a Tuesday morning – we have a few spare waterproofs at Pre-School and wellies if you need to borrow any.

## **LIBRARY BOOKS**

We continue to have the library box of books available for you borrow and share with your child at home. Please remember to mark in the 'Library Log' when you take and return a book. We hope you enjoy and make use of this resource.

## **LUNCH CLUB**

We are very excited to be able to offer lunch club 12.10-13.10 from the start of term in September. If you would like to sign up please let Miss Wilkins know. It is a great opportunity for children to sit round a table and engage with their peers. The cost of lunch club is £9.00 for the hour.

## **STORY TIME**

At the end of each core session, at approximately 11:50am, we have story time. Each week we aim to have two story times that include an interactive story and two of small group reading. We would like to invite you to join us during a number of these story times. If you choose to join us for an interactive story there is no obligation to participate but you may not be able to resist supporting the children to move around the room like animals, joining in a short and fun Yoga session, helping to use puppets to tell a story or moving around to the story of 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'... to name but a few of our many story time activities. If you choose to join us during a small group story time you have the choice of sitting with your child while a member of staff reads, or you can read to a small group of children yourself. This will begin towards the end of September.

## **HOMETIME PROCEDURE**

Please remember to inform a member of staff if someone we have not met before is picking up your child. They will need your family password and some form of Identification. Just a gentle reminder – parents are unable to park in the Church car park and will need to park on the road or park round the corner and walk to Pre-School.

## **CHARLIE BEAR**

Charlie Bear has had another fantastic summer Holidays with Miss Wilkins. If your child is chosen to take home Charlie Bear, please fill out a page in his travel diary of all the fun things you get up too!

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## **ABSENCE AND ILLNESS**

Please notify us in advance, or on the day, if your child is going to be absent from one or more Pre-School sessions. In the case of sickness please keep your child at home for 48 hours after their last bout of illness. Sickness and diarrhoea can spread very quickly so we would appreciate everyone following these procedures.

## **PRE-EXISTING INJURIES FORM**

Please be aware that as part of the Pre-School's safeguarding obligations it has been recommended to us that we ask all parents / carers to inform us of any pre-existing injuries. If your child arrives at Pre-School with an injury that has occurred outside of the setting we would be grateful if you could record this injury and how it occurred on a 'Pre-existing Injury Form' which are located in the reception area. We thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

## **SNACK TIME**

Previously parents donated snack, however, from September Pre-School will provide a nutritious snack and milk/water in the morning for the children.

## **WEBSITE**

The Pre-School website is gradually becoming less of a work in progress and hopefully more of a useful resource. Please visit the 'News' section which is now being regularly updated with reminders of specific dates in the Pre-School calendar and photographs of the various activities the children have been taking part in. You will also find a section of the website containing the 'Latest Newsletter' and a section containing information about the Early Years Foundation Stage; this section also contains links to lots of informative websites related to child development and activities or support available in your local community.

## **CONTACT WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**

If you have an interest, hobby, skill or event of cultural significance that you could, and would like to, share with the Pre-School children then please mention it to a member of staff. We welcome any input and thoroughly enjoy having visitors. Over the years we have regularly hosted parents, grand-parents and older siblings who were musicians, historians, artists, nurses, authors or firemen. We would love to extend our repertoire so if you, or anyone you know, would like to join us for all or part of a session then please do.

## **TERM DATES**

### **AUTUMN TERM 2022**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Stay And Play

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September – First Day of Term for all

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Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October inclusive – Half Term  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November – INSET Day  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Last Day Of Term



## **SPRING TERM 2023**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January – First Day of Term  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February inclusive – Half Term Holidays  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – INSET Day  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Last Day Of Term

## **SUMMER TERM 2023**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – First Day Of Term  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May- Bank Holiday  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June inclusive – Half Term  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – INSET Day  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Last Day Of Term

Summer Club TBC....

## **AND FINALLY:**

**We always try to make ourselves available to talk to you but this is not always possible first thing in the morning as settling the children is our main priority.** If you need to tell us something urgently then we will always make time for you but otherwise it is more convenient for members of staff to talk at the end of the session when we have more time. If the subject is personal or requires confidentiality, please let us know and we will make the Pre-School office available for conversation.

If you have any concerns, please share them with us. We are here to help and to make this a positive experience for everyone.

Many thanks

Miss Wilkins and The Pre-School Team

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## A few little notes from St Johns Church –

### Bag Blessing 9.30am 4th September

After the summer break, September feels like the beginning of new things. If you would like your work bag, school bag or something else which signifies your 'work' blessed, then this will take place as part of the 9.30am All Age Parish Eucharist. All Welcome.

### Bike N Hike, 10th September 2022

St John's is a lovely historic building enjoyed by many in our community. Our Vicar, Revd Tim, is taking part in this year's sponsored 'Bike 'n Hike' to help raise money for the [Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust](#).

Half of what he raises goes to St John's to support its upkeep, so if you can [sponsor him](#), he will be very grateful.



### Quiz Night - Saturday 10 September 7pm for 7:30pm

Tickets now on sale for a Quiz Night with Quizmaster Paul Bedding. £20 per ticket, which includes a Fish and Chips dinner (or alternative) ~ bring your own drinks. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds to the new Parish Centre. To buy a ticket. please get in touch via the [Parish Office](#).

