

## Newsletter May 2021 No. 102

### Pre-School News

It has been a busy few months, since our last newsletter. It was lovely to welcome all the children back just before the Easter break and they have all settled back in well. Hopefully the most recent lockdown will be the last and normal times will soon return.

Despite restrictions easing, please can I remind you that we do still need to be cautious and you should not send your child to pre-school if they are displaying any of the covid symptoms. You do still need to isolate and book a PCR test at one of the test centres and inform of us of the result before returning, if they do display any symptoms.

Tapestry is a useful form of communication between parents and staff, however, we do understand that you may wish to have a discussion with your child's key person. Please do not hesitate to give us a call if there is anything we can help you with or you would like a general catch up!

### Staff News

We have welcomed some new staff members to the team, Amelia joins us as a full time Apprentice, she is working towards her level 3 qualification while she also learns on the job. We also had Lily join the after-school club team, in January, she will be here for the next year covering Becki's maternity leave, Lily is also working towards her level 3 qualification. Last week our newest member of the team started - Nicola. Nicola is a very well experienced level 3 practitioner who will be a great asset to the team.

Congratulations to our after-school club assistant, Becki, who gave birth to Harriet in March!

Congratulations must also go to Lorraine, Carli and Jordan who have just completed their level 3 in play work qualification.

During the Easter holidays Anna, Sarah, Jordan, Nicola, Amelia and Lily completed their paediatric first aid training.

Carli is also currently undertaking her Level 2 Forest School qualification and is leading some small groups in the school's outdoor learning area on a Thursday morning.

### Letter of the week

Please look out for the letter of the week every Monday on Tapestry. Every day at group time we focus on the letter of the week and look for items around the pre-school that begin with that letter. It would be great if you could support this at home by looking for things at home that begin with that letter, and talking about it with your child.

### **\*\*PARENTS MEETINGS – SAVE THE DATE!\*\***

With covid restrictions being lifted we are hoping to have parents' meeting on the evening of Monday 28th June. This will give parents the opportunity to meet with their child's key person to discuss their progress this year. We will confirm arrangements (restrictions permitting) closer to the time.

### Covid Adjustments

We will be continuing with a 2.45pm finish time until the end of the summer term, thank you for your patience and support with the adjustments we have had to make to keep everyone safe. Please be reminded that there should still be only one adult accompanying their child at drop off and pick up times.

Please also try to keep a 2 metre distance at the garden gate, we do understand that this is not always possible but we do need to keep to this rule as much as possible.

### Sunscreen and clothes for the weather!

Hopefully sunnier, warmer days are on their way! Please remember to apply an **ALL DAY sunscreen** to your child before they come to pre-school. We will not reapplying at lunchtime.

We encourage independence in the children so please can you ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather everyday and plenty of spares. We do go out everyday and all children go out at lunch time whilst the session changes over for lunch.

We **do not** insist children wear aprons for activities as this can sometimes make them unwilling to take part. We enjoy time indoors and out in all weathers, with mud, flour, water and paint! We also like to go barefoot outside in the summer.



### Invoices

Please look out for this term's invoice for sessions and snack charges that will be emailed out in the next couple of weeks. Any problems please do let Anna now.



Tapestry continues to be a lovely way for us to share your children's time at pre-school and also for us to see what they get up to at home.

We also use it to share useful documents and ideas of activities to do at home.

Please do get in touch if you need any help accessing Tapestry.

### Lunch Boxes

**ALLERGIES** - We do have children with serious allergies; please support us and help us to be a **nut-free** pre-school.

First aid choking guidelines say - **Grapes** must now be quartered, **cherry tomatoes** halved and mini **sausages** cut in half length ways. This also includes any other foods that may present a choking hazard.

**Drinks** - we supply milk and water. You are welcome to put fresh fruit juice in your child's lunch box.

**Chocolate spread** - if your child has chocolate spread sandwiches please ensure they do not contain nuts (EG Nutella). We may call you to confirm this prior to lunch time.

**Nut Free** - with new labelling laws we have seen a rise in bars that contain or are made in a factory that handles nuts. Please can you re-check labels as some have changed.

If we are unsure as to whether it contains nuts, it will be returned in your child's lunch box with a note.

Please do contact us if you have any questions or queries. You can contact me by email on - [manager.charltonacorns@gmail.com](mailto:manager.charltonacorns@gmail.com) or ring 01235 224088

Anna

### Dates to remember:

**2020/2021**

Charlton Acorns Pre-School - Telephone 01235 224088 Email [manager.charltonacorns@gmail.com](mailto:manager.charltonacorns@gmail.com)

**Term 5** Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 - Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Term 6** Mon 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - **Wed 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 2.45pm** finish

**\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF FINISH FOR THE END OF THE SUMMER TERM\*\*\*\*\***

### **2021/2022**

**Term 1** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept - Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

**INSET DAY** Mon 18<sup>th</sup> October & Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Nov

**Term 2** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov - Fri 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (12 noon finish)

**Term 3** Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Jan - Fri 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Term 4** Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Feb - Fri 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (12 noon finish)

**Term 5** Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Apr - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**INSET DAY** Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June

**Term 6** Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Jun - Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 (12 noon finish)

### Covid 19

Please continue to be vigilant in following government guidelines to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

### **Help control the virus:**

To protect yourself and others, when you leave home you must:

- Wash hands - keep washing your hands regularly
- Cover face - wear a face covering over your nose and mouth in enclosed spaces
- Make space - stay at least a metre away from people not in your household

If you or anyone in your household experience any of the symptoms please do not come to preschool, please get tested.

### **If you have coronavirus symptoms:**

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

[Get a test now!](#)

Please remember that you should not bring your child in if you have had to give your child capol or ibuprofen before they come to pre-school.

**It is particularly important that you do let us know if your child is not going to be attending pre-school, and the reason for their absence.**

Many thanks for helping us all stay safe!



### Committee News

It's been a very positive start to this term, and we are hoping for things to only get better as COVID restrictions start to ease. As always, thank you for all of your support with settling the children quickly back in after the holidays.

As you are hopefully aware, the pre-school is a charity, run by a committee of volunteer parents and guardians. Your current committee members are:

Chair - Debra Steer

Treasurer - Stacy Hall

Secretary - Jenny Adarich

Committee members - Izzy Taylor and Bethan Collier

### **Update on the merger with Charlton School:**

Acorns committee and Charlton School are proposing to merge Charlton Acorns with Charlton Primary School. The feedback we have had during consultation has been incredibly positive, and the pre-school staff are also very much in favour of this going ahead. The consultation period has now ended and Charlton School are now applying to extend their age range.

For the merger to go ahead, the membership of the pre-school (parents and guardians of all children who attend any group run by the Pre-School) needs to vote to close the charity which runs the pre-school at an extraordinary general meeting. For this vote to count we need to have a representative from at least 10% of the families that use the pre-school at that meeting.

The extraordinary meeting is being held via **Zoom on Thursday 27th May 2021 at 7:45pm**. If you would like the meeting link please contact [charltonacorns@gmail.com](mailto:charltonacorns@gmail.com). We hope to see lots of you there to help us take this next step!

If you have any questions on the merger please speak to one of the pre-school staff or email me at [charltonacorns@gmail.com](mailto:charltonacorns@gmail.com).

### **Voluntary Snack Charge:**

This money is used to purchase the daily snack, ingredients for baking activities, play dough and items for the sensory tray, and so is really important to the pre-school. All the children benefit from these activities and the funding we receive doesn't cover these nice to have extras. Therefore, if you don't currently, please consider paying this voluntary charge if you are in a position to do so.

### **Support the pre-school:**

Please don't forget if you would like to get involved with the pre-school in any way (helping with fundraising events, offers of help with maintenance or even joining the committee) every little bit helps and we'd be delighted to hear from you: [charltonacorns@gmail.com](mailto:charltonacorns@gmail.com).

Thanks for your time and consideration and we hope you stay safe and healthy.

Debra Steer on behalf of Charlton Acorns Committee.

### Fundraising News!

As covid restrictions have continued to make holding traditional fundraising events very difficult, we have still had a few successes over the past term.

A replacement freezer for the preschool was generously donated by a local member of the public and kindly PAT tested by M&A Electricals. Over the Easter holidays more than 20kg of empty baby food pouches were sorted and sent to terracycle for recycling- not only great for the planet but a few £ in the pot for Acorns.

With restrictions now set to ease we are planning to hold some fundraising events next term. If anyone can offer any help, even if it's just ideas and enthusiasm we would really appreciate it. Please just get in touch with preschool or Karin Chaplin on [karinchaplin@live.co.uk](mailto:karinchaplin@live.co.uk)

Many thanks for your support so far,  
The fundraising team