

Newsletter Autumn 2020 No. 100

Pre-School News

Hello everyone, welcome to our newsletter. Please find dates for your diary and some updates about what we have been doing and what is coming up! We are also on Facebook for day to day updates!

It has been lovely to see our existing children again and they have settled beautifully into pre-school. All our new children are coping brilliantly with being dropped off at the gate, it is difficult to leave your child if they are upset so please do give us a call to check on them. If we are not able to settle them we will also call and let you know.

Please do check your Tapestry account for photographs of your child's time with us and please do share updates from home. Your children really enjoy seeing the pictures and telling us about their adventures at home.

Congratulations to Jordan who has completed her Level 3 EYE course today! 18 months of hard work, well done.

Covid Adjustments

We have had to adjust our afternoon finish time to 2.45pm, this is due to the length of time the handover is taking and also school pick up time changes. I do understand this causes some difficulties if you are then having to wait for school pick, but we have guidances we have to adhere to in order to protect us all. We must ensure we have time to clean the pre-school between sessions and allow drying time. Many thanks for your understanding and support with this.

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.

Pick up – please queue alongside the preschool building from the gate to give the school parents room for collection.

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 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!](#)

Many thanks for helping us all stay safe!

Louise



Clothes for the weather!

Please can you ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather everyday when they are at pre-school. We do go out everyday and all children go out at lunch time whilst the session changes over for lunch.



Voluntary snack charge.

We have had several questions regarding the voluntary snack/consumables charge. This money is used to purchase the daily snack, ingredients for baking activities, play dough and items for the sensory tray.



Clothing

Please remember to provide spare clothing for your child and please, please do not send them in special clothing to pre-school! 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.



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 come and speak to myself or Anna if you need any help accessing Tapestry.

Lunch Boxes

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

Please use a hard plastic lunch box that is clearly named this is to enable us to spray down the boxes before they are checked and put in our fridge.

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.

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

Louise

Dates to remember:

2020/2021

Term 1 Thurs 3rd September 2020 – Thurs 22nd Oct 2020

Term 2 Tues 3rd November 2020 – Fri 18th Dec 2020 12pm finish

Term 3 Tues 5th Jan 2021 – Thurs 11th Feb 2021

Term 4 Mon 22nd Feb 2021 – Wed 31st March 2021 12 pm finish

Term 5 Mon 19th April 2021 – Fri 28th May 2021

Term 6 Mon 7th June 2021 – Thurs 22nd July 2021 12pm finish

***Possible Dates for Nativity and Christmas Party**
(*Dependant on guidelines at that date)

8th December – Nativity – In morning session

9th December – Nativity – In afternoon session

18th December - Christmas Party – no session

Committees
that make a difference

Your Pre-School Committee needs you!

As you may already know the Pre-School is a charity and the Pre-School committee are the trustees. There have

been a few changes in the committee since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the current committee is as follows:

Chair (interim) - Debra Steer

Secretary - Stacy Hall

Treasurer - Christine Clark

Committee members - Karin Chaplin and Izzy Taylor

Several of the committee members will be stepping down at the next AGM and we need new volunteers. Thank you to those of you that have already expressed an interest, we will be contacting you shortly, but if anyone else interested in joining the committee please contact us at charltonacorns@gmail.com.

Your Fundraising Team needs you!

A fundraising team is being headed up by Karin Chaplin for the 2019/2020 pre-school year. This year we are going to have to be a bit innovative as some of the biggest fundraising events for the pre-school are unlikely to be allowed. Thank you to those of you that have already expressed an interest, we will be contacting you shortly, but if anyone else is interested in joining the fundraising committee please contact us at charltonacorns@gmail.com.

Information on cost updates

There are some other changes the committee would like to inform you about:

- **We are now accepting a limited number of 30 hours government funded hours. Please contact Louise – Pre-School Manager for more information.**
- **The snack charge (currently 25p per 3 hour session) is changing to a snack and consumables charge and will be increasing to 50p per 3 hour session.**

These steps have been taken to help keep the pre-school financially stable with the uncertainty of COVID-19 and possible closures that may need to happen if there are cases in the pre-school or if there is a local lock-down. We appreciate that increasing the snack and consumables charge will be difficult for some families and we ask that if this is causing you any stress or difficulties please contact us about it. The reason for the increase is that the local authority funded hours only really cover our staffing costs and to be able to offer the range of activities we would like we need extra help.

If you would like to get involved with the Pre-School in any way (helping run fundraising events or offers of help with maintenance for example) every little bit helps and you can let us know at the address charltonacorns@gmail.com. Thanks for your time and consideration and we wish you a great year ahead.

Charlton Acorns Pre-School Committee.