

Newsletter January 2021 No. 101

Pre-School News

Hello and welcome to the first newsletter of 2021. It is such a shame that we have started a new year in a third lockdown and not able to see all our children in pre-school. While we are open for all pre-school children, and wrap around care for the primary school key worker children, we would like to remind you that we are in the middle of a pandemic, so if you do feel you would rather keep your child at home, following the government's 'Stay at Home' advice, then we support your decision.

For the children who are remaining at home during this time, you will see some home learning activities posted on Tapestry by your key person each week. These activities are to help support your child's learning at home and will be focused on their individual learning and development. It would be lovely to see some photos of what you have been up to at home. Please keep an eye on our facebook page for updates and general activity ideas. If there is any further support we can offer you, please do get in touch.

We said a fond farewell to Louise at the end of last term after 8 years with us, who has gone on to run her own Nordic Walking business. We also said 'goodbye' to Cate who has decided to spend more time at home. They will both be missed. We also wish Becki from After School Club well, who will soon be welcoming a new addition to the family.

I am delighted that Lorraine has been promoted to Deputy Manager and Carli to Senior Practitioner. We also welcome Sarah to the team, who is settling in well!

Despite all the recent changes, we have a very strong team and I am looking forward to us being able to continue providing a high quality learning and care setting for all the children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team for all their hard work and support during a very difficult time, when all other education settings are closed to all but vulnerable and critical key worker children.

Funding this term

Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed that we are able to claim the Nursery Education Funding for all children who are entitled, whether or not they are attending due to lock down. Please fill out and return your child's funding form via email by **FRIDAY 22ND JANUARY, EVEN IF THEY ARE REMAINING AT HOME**. We need these to keep your child's place secure.

Once the funding forms have been received and submitted, invoices will be sent out, so please look out for these in the coming weeks.

Covid Adjustments

We will be continuing with a 2.45pm finish time for the foreseeable future. Please be reminded that only one adult should accompany their child and 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.

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!

Anna



Clothes for the weather!

We encourage independence in the children so 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.

As advised in the last newsletter, due to the increasing costs, we have had, reluctantly, to increase the voluntary snack/consumables charge to 50p per sessions. 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.

Forest School

Unfortunately due to Louise's departure we have lost our Forest School leader, therefore we will be unable to run 'forest school' in its previous format, however, we do still intend to take small groups of children to the school site for some outdoor fun later on in the term.



Tapestry continues to be a lovely way for us to share your childrens 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.

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.

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 or ring 01235 224088

Anna

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

INSET DAY - FRI 12TH FEBRUARY

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



September from the Waitrose community matters fund as well as a brand new oven kindly donated by local couple Mike and Gemma Hissey.

What will this new term bring? Who knows! But we are still here hoping to be able to bring you more fabulous and fun fundraising events in the future. If anyone can offer any time or suggestions then the fundraising team are always happy to welcome new helpers.

Many thanks for your support so far,
The fundraising team

Committee News

It has been a difficult term so far, but the staff of our pre-school are incredible. Staying open in such difficult circumstances is a huge help to a lot of parents and carers, and to do it with such professionalism and care for all the families which use the Pre-School is just fantastic. I can't thank all of them enough for the job they are doing.

Since the last newsletter the committee have had the pre-school AGM. Several committee members sadly stepped down and some fabulous new volunteers stepped up. As you know the Pre-School is a Charity and needs volunteers for the committee and fundraising teams to keep going. The current committee are:

Chair - Debra Steer

Treasurer - Stacy Hall

Secretary - Jenny Adarich

Committee members - Izzy Taylor and Bethan Collier

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 you can let us know at: charltonacorns@gmail.com.

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

Debra Steer (on behalf of Charlton Acorns Pre-School Committee).

Fundraising News!

Despite the uncertainty and tight event restrictions this academic year has brought, I am happy to say that we have still been able to raise some much needed funds to help make our preschool the best it can be.

Thank you so much to everyone who took part in last terms events. The smarties challenge was a great success at half term, raising almost **£220!** And a further **£90** was raised from the sale of the Christmas Eve packs which I hope the children enjoyed. We also received **£333** in

Charlton Acorns Pre-School - Telephone 01235 224088 Email manager.charltonacorns@gmail.com



THANK
YOU!

