



Southmoor Pre-School
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Pre-School Newsletter February 2020

Staffing Update

We would like to welcome Andrew to our team, he has taken on the role of the Pre-school cleaner and he is thoroughly enjoying it.

Activities

We have a very exciting term ahead of us, filled with lots of activities going on.

- From February 3rd Owls children will start to visit Petypher House care home, we met with the scheme manager today and discussed lots of exciting activities that they will be doing together, including gardening, bag making and story sharing.
- We will be getting Caterpillars again this year for both our Robins and Owls rooms, this was a big success last year, the children enjoyed watching the caterpillars munch through their food and make their cocoons and when they turned into butterflies we set them free.
- We are also looking into getting some tadpoles for our Robins children, they are very excited to see the lifecycle of them. We would be looking for donations of tadpoles if anyone has a pond in their garden.
- We will be starting cookery classes after February half term with both rooms, this is an exciting opportunity for children to try new foods, they will be bringing their dishes home with the recipe cards to share with you and hopefully you can have a go at making these at home.
- We would also like to start yoga with the children to create a calming session, if anyone would be willing to come in and help with these that would be very appreciated.

After half term we would like to offer the opportunity for any parents to come in and read stories to the children at group time. A new face and voice reading to the children is great for them. We would support you sitting with the children during this session too. We have lots of story books and story sacks for you to make this as interesting as you possibly can. Please do speak to Megan, Paige or Diane if you would be willing to take part in this.

Cake Sale – We will be having a cake sale on **Wednesday 12th February**. Nearer the time we will be asking for donations of cakes to sell on the day. We are very grateful for any home-made or shop-bought cakes and biscuits. We will have a few out for sale at lunch-time pick

up in case you aren't here for the afternoon and we have our table outside at the end of the day so we can catch all the John Blandy School children coming out too.

Owls Garden Project Update

After lots of fundraising, we now have the full amount of money to get started with the garden project. The groundwork is now booked to start on 3rd April and it should be finished over the Easter holidays ready for the summer term. Perfect timing! Thank you for all your support in helping us raise these funds, it is very much appreciated.

General Reminders

Timekeeping – Can all parents please ensure that they arrive promptly for the beginning of the morning session at 8.45am or 11.45am for the afternoon session. This also encourages the children to settle together into the routine. When children are arriving late, this can be very disruptive to the rooms. Thank you for your co-operation.

Winter Coats, Gloves and Hats – Now that the weather is getting colder, please ensure that children come to pre-school with a coat. We play outside all year round but need warm clothes to be able to do this. As it gets even colder, please ensure that children have named winter hats and gloves in their bags.

Shoes and Wellies – Please ensure all children wear closed-toed shoes to pre-school. Children often drop things or step on each others' toes. Open-toed sandals don't protect their feet from injuries. Wellies are also essential at pre-school. The children play outside in all weathers and they love to jump in puddles. Please remember to name them.

Change of clothes - all children need to have a bag with a change of clothes. We do play with water, mud, sand, paint, chalk etc every day. Please **name all your child's belongings** – especially shoes and jumpers.

Tapestry – Please remember to login to your Tapestry account and upload your observations and photos of what you have been doing at home. Often children may be achieving a development goal at home that they aren't displaying at pre-school so your observations are very useful and lovely to see. Staff do try to get observations on key children as much as possible, if you have any questions about your children's observations please speak to their key person or Megan.

Dates for your diary

12th February – Cake sale

14th February – Last day of term

24th February – Start of Term 4