



Southmoor Pre-School  
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## Pre-School Newsletter June 2019

It's hard to believe that this will be our final newsletter of the year already! Please read all the information regarding our new staff, summer events timetable, fundraising thank you's and updates from our room leaders.

Firstly, an update on our staffing at pre-school:

**Megan Broughton, Manager** – This term we have welcomed our new pre-school manager, Megan. This is what she has to say about herself:

“I am settling into the pre-school very well and all the staff, children and parents have made me feel so welcome, thank you!

I have worked in Early Years for 16 Years, all ages from a Baby Room Leader to a Pre School Room Leader. I have worked in Managerial Roles in Day Nurseries for the past 8 years, most recently as a Nursery Manager.”

**Sarah-Jane, Early Years Practitioner** – Just before half term we welcomed Sarah-Jane into our Owls room. Sarah-Jane has a wealth of early years knowledge, having worked in childcare for 10 years both in nurseries and as a childminder, as well as bringing up your own family.

### Summer Term Activities

The end of the Summer term is fast approaching and we have lots of exciting things planned for the final few weeks. As always, if your child doesn't normally attend on any of the planned event days, you are welcome to bring them along, we just ask that there is an adult who is able to stay with them.

**School Photos** – We will be taking our class photos on **Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> June**. We convert these into cards for the children as a memento of their time at pre-school. We would really like to have all the children in for these photos so for those children who don't attend on a Wednesday, if you are able to bring them in for just a few minutes it will make for a lovely class photo.

**Robins'** photo will be straight after drop-off at **8.45am**  
**Owls'** photo will then follow at about **9am**

**Village Fete** – as we have mentioned on earlier emails, we will have our usual stall at the village fete at Kingston Bagpuize House on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 1pm – 4pm**. We are still asking for donations of jam jars (pre-filled or empty) and sweets, crayons, toys, stationery etc to fill them.

All monies raised are going towards our Owls garden project so any donations you are able to make will be greatly appreciated by all the staff, committee and children.

If you are able to volunteer on our stall, we still need extra helpers throughout the day.

**Sponsored Walk** – To raise money for our pre-school garden we have organised a sponsored walk for **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 9.30am**. We will be doing a couple of laps of the school field. Please look out for sponsor forms coming home soon. If you would like to come along to join in, or would like to bring your child who does not normally attend on a Tuesday, please arrive at the main door at **9.25am**. We will then make our way out onto the school field through pre-school.

**Sports Day** – Sports Day this year will be held on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 9.30am**. If your child doesn't attend on a Wednesday and you are bringing them along for the event, or would like to watch and support your child, please arrive at **9.25am**. We will then direct you out to the school field.

**Summer Raffle** – We have lots of fantastic prizes again this year for our summer raffle, we have a Miele vacuum cleaner, vouchers for Blenheim Palace, Crocodiles of the World, Millets Falconry Centre, Sprouts, Jungle Kingdom, Farmer Gows, Tangled Hair and Beauty Studio, Snakes and Ladders, Kidz About, and many more. Look out for raffle tickets coming home in a couple of weeks.

**Leavers' Party** – We will be saying a fond farewell to our Owls' children with our Leavers' Party on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 10am – 12 Noon**. All Robins' children are invited to come along to join in the celebration. Mr Punch and Judy will be joining us, and we will have some farewell gifts to give to the Owls' children. Food lists will go up nearer the time.

### **Owls Garden Project**

Phase 1 of our garden project was completed last term, we extended the patio area and installed new drainage to prevent flooding in the wet weather.

Phase 2 is to install a safety surface to the garden area, this phase is going to cost in the region of £17,000. We are currently applying for grants and all of our in-house fundraising will be going towards this project.

Phase 3 is to install a sand shed, which we have just secured funding towards through One Stop's carrier bag scheme. We are also hoping to secure a grant from the Rotary Club's Dragons' Den scheme which we will use to purchase a climbing frame to use in the garden.

## **Robins News – Diane Latham**

This month the weather has been kind to us (until this week!), we have been able to utilise the big sand pit. We planted vegetables into our vegetable patch and the children take it in turns to water them on the dry days. We have been looking at the world around us and noticing changes in the environment.

We have had lots of water play and have filled trays with different coloured water and the children have enjoyed experimenting. Please can I remind you to bring a full change of clothes, named suncream and a hat, thank you.

We have started settling in visits to Owls a couple of times per week which seems to be working well. Can we please remind you to encourage your children to come into the room by themselves. This will help with the routine when they move up to Owls in September.

## **Owls News – Sara Cook**

We have had a very exciting time in Owls, we had five ducklings to look after. They arrived as eggs and we watched them hatch. We learnt how to look after them, how to handle them gently, and most importantly to feed and clean them out. We watched them grow very quickly, we had group discussions on how and where they live. We looked at some books on ducklings and learnt some amazing facts; we found out that they have a tooth on their beaks to help them to hatch out of the eggs! We were all very sad when they left.

We will be welcoming caterpillars very soon, so we will be talking about the life cycle of caterpillars.

We are helping the children with transitions to school, we have been doing lots of role-playing with school uniforms in the dressing up area. We are taking the children up to school to use the hall on a Tuesday morning to do P.E. We have been balancing on the beam, running around the hall and playing a few ball games.

Mrs Surtees, the reception teacher, will be joining us in Owls to read a story to the children and get to know them for a couple of sessions. Mrs Surtees has also asked if any of our parents have any questions about children going into reception, please talk to the Owls' staff or email your queries to us and they will be passed on to Mrs Surtees so they can be answered during your information evening being held at school.

## **Fundraising**

**Cake Sale** – Thank you to everyone who donated delicious cakes and biscuits to our cake sale last month. And to everyone who bought lots to take home. We made a very impressive £126. This will be put towards our garden project.

**Bag2School** – Everyone was very generous again with our Bag2School collection this week, thank you. Although we haven't received the funds yet, it certainly felt like a lot when we moved it all out to the road!

**Charity Boxes** – The Co-op and One Stop have kindly put our charity boxes next to their tills. Everyone in the village have been very generous donating their spare change. Thank you to any parents who have used these boxes.

**Easyfundraising** – If you make any purchases online, please don't forget to go through the easyfundraising website first. You just need to register Southmoor Pre-School as your chosen charity, use the easyfundraising website to access your retailer, then purchase as normal. Pre-School will be given a percentage of the total you spend and you sometimes get extra discounts too! You can also download an app for your phone or tablet which makes it even easier.

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

## General Reminders

**Sunhats and Suncream** – Please ensure that on sunnier days, all children need to have a sunhat and have suncream applied before they arrive at pre-school. For those children who are staying for the whole day, please put a named bottle of suncream in their bag and our staff will reapply it after lunch.

**Shoes** – 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.

**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.

If you require nametags for your children's belongings, they can be ordered from <https://www.mynametags.com/affiliate?id=48317> If you enter our school ID in the basket (48317) we earn commission from your purchases.

## Dates for your diary

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June – School Photos (8.45am for Robins, 9am for Owls)

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Village Fete (1pm – 4pm)

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Sponsored Walk (9.30am)

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Sports Day (9.30am)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers' Party and Raffle Draw (10am – 12noon)

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July – End of Term 11.45am finish