



Southmoor Pre-School
Laurel Drive, Southmoor, Abingdon, Oxon OX13 5DJ
Email southmoorpre-school@live.co.uk
Telephone: - 01865 821505
www.southmoorpre-school.co.uk

Pre-School Newsletter October 2019

Welcome (back)

We'd like to welcome back all of our Robins children who have moved up into the owls room. They all seem to have grown up so much over the summer.

We would also like to welcome all of our new children and parents who started with us in September. We have been very busy learning names and getting to know thirteen new Owls and sixteen new Robins. They have all settled in wonderfully and are already making new friends.

Staffing Update

As well as all of our new children, we would also like to welcome Rinaule, our newest member of staff in our Owls room. Rinaule brings a wealth of experience with her, having worked with children for over 10 years and is already a fantastic addition to our pre-school team.

Autumn Term Activities

The Autumn term is our most fun-filled term with lots of exciting events for the children and some fundraising opportunities for us too. Currently we are fundraising to redevelop the Owls' garden. We plan to cover the garden area with a safety surface full of bright colours and learning opportunities. The project will cost in the region of £18,000 of which we currently have £7,500 so any support you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

If you know of any grants that are available for this kind of project, please let us know.

The events we have coming up are:

Cake Sale – We will be having our first cake sale of the year on **Wednesday the 23rd October**. 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.

Concept Photography – Concept Photography will be coming in on **Saturday the 26th October** to do our pre-school photos. They can do photos of individual children, siblings, or the whole family. When the proofs come back, you will be able to choose from prints, digital images, or photo packs which make lovely Christmas presents. There is no obligation to purchase the photos.

We will have slots available from 10am until 12.30pm. Slots fill up quickly so if you would like one, please put your name down early. If all the slots do fill up, we can add a few extra ones to the end of the session.

Bag2School – We have a Bag2School collection booked for **Friday the 15th November**. This is a company that collect donations of used clothes, shoes, jewellery, bags, bedding, towels, and soft toys. They pay us 50p per kilo of items collected and we usually receive between £80 and £90 so it is a great way for us to raise some money and for you to have a clear out.

We will be sending donation bags home before half term but the company will accept donations in any bags.

Christmas Events

Christmas seems a long way off but with less than three months to go we wanted to give you the key dates to plan for. More information will be available nearer the time.

Owls' Nativity performance will be on **Thursday the 12th December at 9am**. All children will be invited to take part and all parents are invited to come and watch. If your child doesn't normally attend on a Thursday, please do bring them along, all we ask is that an adult stays with them due to our ratio limits.

Robins' Christmas Carols will be on **Monday the 16th December at 9am**. Again, all children will be invited to take part and all parents are invited to come and watch. If your child doesn't normally attend on a Thursday, please do bring them along, all we ask is that an adult stays with them due to our ratio limits.

Pre-School Christmas Party – Thursday 18th July 10am – 12 Noon. This will be for all the children at pre-school. Mr Punch and Judy will be joining us and we are hoping that Father Christmas might be able to spare the time to pop in and visit the children. Food lists for the party lunch will go up nearer the time.

Owls Garden Project Update

In addition to the safety surface that I mentioned earlier, we are well underway with the last phase of our project which is to install a new sand shed and climbing frame.

You may have noticed that the shed was delivered over the summer holidays following a successful application to the One Stop's Carriers for Causes carrier bag scheme. We are hoping to have the conversion completed and the sand delivered before we return after half term

At the end of the summer term, the chair of our committee and I attended an event held by the rotary club. We gave a presentation about how important climbing is to lots of areas of children's development and we were awarded a grant to purchase a climbing frame for the Owl's garden. This had just been delivered so we hope to have it built and in use very soon.

Robins News – Diane Latham

All the children have settled nicely into Robins' room. We have explored the room and loved playing outside, we have talked about the time line and our daily routines. Last week we spotted a frog in the garden and we spoke about the life cycle of a frog, we coloured in pictures and spoke about what colours they are. We are still talking about it this week as the children have been very interested.

Please can I remind you that children must have spare wellies at pre-school and 2-3 spare changes of clothes as we play out in all weathers and the children love to splash in puddles.

We always love to see occasions, events, or activities that the children are doing at home uploaded to tapestry as it is nice to talk to the children about what they have been doing and increase their communication skills.

Owls News – Paige Burden

We have had a busy few weeks welcoming Owls to pre-school after the summer holidays! It has been lovely to see so many new faces and welcoming the Robins that have moved up, they have all settled in so well.

Each week we will be introducing a new theme and focussing our learning for the week around that theme. So far we have been looking at, 'All About Me' and getting to know our new friends, talking about our families and thinking about our feelings and emotions.

We are now starting to look at Autumn. Thank you for all the Autumn bits that you have collected, they have been well used for our exploratory and messy play!

We have begun sending home books each week in their book bags. This is so you can enjoy reading with your children at home and sharing stories they have chosen. When you have finished with a book, please bring it back in and they can swap it for another one.

A big thank you for all your input on Tapestry so far, it is really helpful for us to gain an insight into your child's interests at home so we can share and develop these at pre-school.

Just a reminder, now the weather is getting colder and wetter can we please have coats and wellies (labelled!) so we can continue to access the garden.

Lunches

Following local authority guidelines on healthy eating, we will no longer have juices at lunch time. Children are welcome to bring in their own bottles of water in their lunch boxes and we have water available to them throughout the day.

School Applications

Although September seems like a long way away, it is nearly time for our Owls' parents to apply for their primary school places for September 2020.

The key dates to watch out for are:

1st November 2019 – applications open

15th January 2020 – applications close

16th April 2020 – National Allocation Day – place offers are emailed and posted out.

Fundraising

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, especially with Christmas approaching, 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

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.

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.

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. If you still haven't received your Tapestry logon details please see Megan.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 23rd October – Cake Sale

Saturday 26th October – Concept Photography

Friday 25th October – End of Term 1 (2.45pm)

Friday 1st November – School Applications Open for September 2020

Monday 4th November – Start of Term 2

Friday 15th November – Bag2School Collection

Thursday 12th December – Owls' Nativity (9am)

Friday 13th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 16th December – Robins' Christmas Carols (9am)

Wednesday 18th December – Pre-School Christmas Party (10am – 12 noon)

Thursday 19th December – End of Term 2 (11.45am)

Monday 6th January – Inset Day

Tuesday 7th January – Start of Term 3