

Newsletter - October 2004

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1. Dates for Your Diary

- 4th October - Harvest Festival
6th October - 9.30am AGM
9th October - Coffee Shop
19th October - photographer
20th October - last day of term. **NB this is a Wednesday!**
22nd October - cut off date for Webb Ivory orders
1st November - first day back
13th November - Coffee Shop
19th November - Race Night

2. AGM - Wed 6th October 9.30am

Each year we have to have an AGM to present the end of year accounts and to elect a new committee. We need as many parents at the AGM as possible, so please come along. Last year was the first AGM in years that did not have to be adjourned, because enough parents turned up first time around!

Some of the existing committee are willing to stand again. However, we need new blood. Being on the committee involves a meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, plus as much or as little extra time as you feel you can give. Whether it's helping with fundraising, admin or publicity, there are plenty of jobs. If you would like to join the committee, please tell a member of staff or one of the existing committee.

3. Hello and Goodbye

Last term we said goodbye to several children. Holly, Dillon, Aarden and Henry went to big school, Troy emigrated to Spain and Kyle moved to Sonning Common. We wished them all luck and have had a

letter from a very tanned Troy, which people may read if they wish.

Welcome to Tula and Charlie, who joined our Plus 4s at the end of last term. Welcome also to Stefan, Sofia, Henry, Imogen, Oakley, James and Rebecca who are joining us this term.

4. We're Getting Full!

We are now busier than ever before. All pre-schools have to have one member of staff for every 4 two year olds and one for every 6-8 three year olds. We thus have to plan our staff numbers well in advance. As we have become ever more popular, it has become increasingly difficult for us to take children for the odd extra session. Tuesday mornings and lunches are currently full and Wednesday mornings are extremely busy.

We pride ourselves on being a relaxed and flexible pre-school. We are still happy to take children on short notice; we may even have the odd space on Tuesdays if someone, who is booked in, doesn't turn up; so always ask. However, **if you want to guarantee a place you will need to book a permanent place**, for which we will invoice you.

Because we are now reaching capacity, we have had to turn away a couple of children for busy sessions. It is therefore necessary that we

follow our existing terms and conditions by insisting on a half term's notice of either a reduction of sessions or a child leaving pre-school, otherwise fees will have to be charged in place of notice.

5. Harvest Festival

We will be visiting the church on the morning of **4th October** for the harvest festival. We have to have one adult to every two children, so we would be very grateful if some parents could come along. Please speak to Sharron if you are able to help.

6. PE Kits for Plus 4s

If your child is a Plus 4 who comes on a Tuesday morning, they will need to have a PE kit. Nothing fancy, just shorts, a T-shirt and some pumps in a NAMED (non-plastic) bag, which can be kept in the Pre-school cupboard if you wish.

7. Slippers and Wellies Please

It's starting to get wet and muddy again, which means mucky footprints and grass-clippings all over the floor. We have one child who cannot walk, and will shortly have another. Keeping the floor clean is therefore particularly important for them. We'd be very grateful if *all* children could be changed into slippers etc. when they arrive.

Could everyone also please come armed with a pair of labelled wellies. There are beans and leeks crying out to be picked for lunch, and we would like to be able to make sorties to the allotment etc.

8. Sponsored Cricket

THANK YOU to everyone who helped out with the sponsored cricket. Some of you played, some of you helped with the food, some of you sponsored friends. We are very grateful. If you have any sponsor money, please hand it in to a member of Staff.

9. More Thank Yous

Thank you to Sally and Maurice from the Red Lion for organising a pub quiz in aid of the Pre-school in July. It was great fun, even if we did all ultimately realise we knew nothing about anything!

Thanks also to all the mums and dads who braved torrential downpours to help marshal at the Woodcote Rally. The Rally committee was very impressed with the effort, particularly in the car park, where we apparently saved the day on Sunday. Hopefully, it will translate into pounds - we have asked for a large donation towards a large screen lap-top.

10. A Humble Jumble?

As you all know, we ran one of our two annual jumble sales on 11th September. Historically, jumble sales are our most successful fundraising events. Usually, they're queuing into the car park with sharpened elbows and eagle eyes. For some unknown reason, the punters just weren't there this year. Nevertheless, with a lot of help from a lot of people, some of them entirely unconnected with Pre-school, we managed to raise about £340, after paying for the hall. Thank you to everyone who helped out by collecting and storing jumble (the Red Lion cellar may never recover!), distributing flyers, helping on the day or providing cakes.

11. Coffee Shops

Whilst on the subject of cakes, every six weeks or so we run the Coffee Shop at the Community Centre. It's a great opportunity to have a cup of coffee and a slice of cake after visiting the library on a Saturday morning - the kids love it. We need about 10-12 cakes for each one and it has become very difficult to round up enough cakes each time. They always seem to come from the same handful of parents. If you can help out with a cake (we can freeze those that are made well in advance), please say. We'd be very grateful. The next Coffee Shop

dates are **9th October** and **13th November**.

12. Food Donations

For those new families who are not yet familiar with how we run, we ask that all children who come on a Wednesday morning bring a piece of fruit with them, to be shared at break-time.

We also ask parents to donate a savoury snack about once a term on a rota basis. Anything is welcome, although we do ask that nut products are avoided. Bread, dried fruit, crackers, bread sticks, dips, sandwich fillings and cheese are ideal. If you are stuck for ideas, please ask a member of staff what we're running low on.

It makes a huge difference to us if parents are able to make a snack donation. Thank you to everyone who helps us out.

13. Tesco Computer Vouchers

Last term we signed up with the Tesco Computer Voucher scheme. We can now accept vouchers. If you have any, we'd be very grateful for them.

14. Race Night

Sarah Heath has bravely offered to organise a race night on **Friday 19th November**. Tickets, costing £10, will

include the price of a ploughman's dinner, a glass of wine and a horse. More horses can of course be bought on the night for £1 and £20 or more can be won on each race. We are planning a giant sized screen, a bar plus music. Bring friends and family for a great night out. Call Sarah on **681576** for more details or to buy a ticket.

15. Christmas Photos

On **19th October**, the nice man from Darmanin Studios will be coming. Every year he manages to coax smiles from our little cherubs. A list of appointments will be on the notice board shortly.

16. Are Your Details Up To Date?

We have to have up to date details, including contact numbers etc for all our children. If you have moved house, changed your mobile or work number or if your child has developed any allergies etc, please let us know.