



Newsletter September 2023

Welcome back to Pre-school after the summer break and a special hello to all our new children and their families. I would also like to give a big welcome to Mrs Frances Burke and Mrs Hayley Hayes who join our staff team this term. Mrs Burke is an experienced Early Years Teacher and Mrs Hayes has lots of experience of working with children while working for the NHS. We are very lucky to have them! Mrs Lafferty, Mrs Graves and Miss Sellars continue to work in the setting, so what a wonderful and experienced team we will have. If your child used to have Mrs Couchman as a keyperson, then Mrs Burke will now take over their care unless you hear from me to say otherwise. Please feel free to come in and meet the new teachers if you get chance.

Focus for this half term: We will be learning all about colours and shapes as we start the new term. We will be using finger paints to make marks with, and we will watch what happens when we mix the colours. We will also make shape collages and use blocks to build with in our construction area, exploring which shapes fit together and which shapes don't make good towers! We will name 3D and 2D shapes as we build and play games. As the term progresses, we will explore all the different colours that the season of autumn brings. Focus stories will offer colour themes- The Blue Balloon, The Colour Monster and The Smeds and the Smoos where we learn about what happens when you mix red and blue! I will continue to send the planning out to you all via email, starting from Monday the 11th, and this gives you an outline of the sort of activities your child might take part in during the week at their own level. We are aware, however, that young children's learning is often driven by their own interests, so our plans are always flexible.

Fizzy Tots: Our Fizzy Tots sessions will restart on Wednesday 13th September. If your child is in on a Wednesday morning, can you please ensure they are wearing footwear that is appropriate to run and jump in!

Library books: We offer a wide selection of books for the children to explore and each week your child will be able to choose a book from our newly stocked library to bring home to share with you. They will also bring home a book log for you to sign and comment in when you have finished the book. There are also happy and sad faces for your child to colour/circle to indicate whether they enjoyed it or not.

Self-registration: We have developed a new registration system for the children to use as well as the teacher's record. Each child will have a named coloured star placed on the table in the cloakroom and if you could help them to

find their star, they can then stick it to our small night sky display just as they come into the classroom. We know most children will not yet be able to recognise their name but hopefully with practise and persistence they soon will do!

Packed lunches: Could you please ensure that your child's lunchbox, drink's bottle and any containers inside it are named. Could you also put an ice pack in it as we store the bags in the cloakroom area in the morning. Please also be aware that **we cannot have any products containing peanuts in the setting.**

Focus children and Next Steps: From next week I will be working with a small group of focus children each week, enabling me to spend time with all the children throughout the term, and I will be sending out letters with a short form asking for your input into their next steps when it is your child's turn. This will give you an opportunity to say what your child is interested in and enjoys at home and if there is anything specific you would like us to help your child with. We will of course continue to use the key person system and it will be that teacher who works especially closely with you and your child throughout their time at Pre-school.

Family tree: We are once again renewing our family tree display in Pre-school which has photographs of each child and their families and pets. The children really enjoy looking at this display and finding themselves so if you could all please bring some photographs in? Up to 4 would be fine. It also helps us as we use it to recognise extended family if they collect your child and seeing the photographs can be comfort if your child is a little unsettled initially.

Weather: If the weather turns cooler and wetter could you all ensure that your child brings a named waterproof coat to Pre-school as we try to play out in all weathers. On the other hand, if the sun continues to shine in September could you then ensure that your child wears sun cream and brings a sun hat!

Caroline Bickerton Pre-school Manager