



Newsletter September 2024

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 back to Mrs Julie Couchman who is returning to us after her year long round the world trip with her family. I am sure she will have a lot of exciting stories to share with the children! If your child used to have Mrs Burke as a keyperson, then Mrs Couchman will now take over their care unless you hear from me to say otherwise. We also offer big congratulations to Mrs Burke on the birth of her beautiful baby girl Charlotte in August. Mrs Burke is hoping to return to us on a part time basis by Easter 2025.

Focus for this half term: This will be the topic of 'All About Me.' Our younger children will be enjoying songs like 'Heads, Shoulders Knees and Toes,' looking at their faces in mirrors and painting their hands and fingers. Older children will be painting self-portraits, drawing their houses and talking about their families. We will also be talking about house numbers, colours of front doors, who is in our family and how we are all different. Focus stories will include 'Funny Bones' and 'This is Our House.' As the term progresses, we will explore all the different colours that the season of autumn brings. I will continue to send the planning out to you all via email, starting from Monday the 9th, and this gives you an outline of the sort of activities your child might take part in during the week at their own level. Plans aimed at younger children will be recoded in green and older children's plans in blue. This is not rigid, however, and lots of older children will enjoy the green activities and younger ones the blue! We are also aware that young children's learning is often driven by their own interests, so our plans are always flexible.

Fizzy Tots: Our Fizzy Tots sessions are now going to be on a Thursday, the first one being on the 12th September, and will be led by Sam who is the PE teacher in the main school. If your child is in on a Thursday morning, can you please ensure they are wearing footwear that is appropriate to run and jump in! The cost of each session is £2 and bills will be sent out at the beginning of term.

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 use a 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 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.** We will now be providing water to drink at lunch time so no need for drinks bottles or cartons in lunch bags. At snack time the children will be offered either milk or water to drink. We would ask, however, that you send a named reusable bottle of water in with your child each day and that they bring these in and put them in their tray so they can access it throughout the day. We will of course help the children with this initially, making sure they all get plenty to drink throughout the sessions. The bottle will be sent home at the end of each day.

Focus children and Next Steps: From the middle of September, 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. It also links in well with our 'All About Me' topic.

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 throughout the autumn and winter, we would also now like to ask that each child brings an all-in-one puddle suit and wellies to Pre-school from the beginning of October.** These can be stored in a bag on their pegs if you do not want to take them home each afternoon. 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