



## NEWSLETTER

A warm welcome back to everyone, and a special welcome to the new children joining us this term – Phoebe, Rufus, Monty, Olivia, William, Letty, Joshua, Archie, Indigo, Harry and Katie.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### OCTOBER

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – AGM, Chequers Pub, Churchill – ALL WELCOME – see below for details

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October – END OF TERM

#### NOVEMBER

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November – FIRST DAY OF TERM

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November – CHRISTMAS CRAFT MORNING – see below for details

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – FILM NIGHT – see below for details

#### DECEMBER

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Concert, 5.30pm – all children are involved – more info to come

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – END OF TERM

*The full school year term dates are attached*

## DATE DETAILS

### AGM – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

The AGM is being held at The Chequers Pub in Churchill at 8pm and everyone is welcome to attend. At the AGM we look at what the Pre-school has achieved in the past year and look forward to the upcoming year. We also welcome and vote-in new Committee members... We are looking for some new members and we'd love you to think about joining! The Pre-school

is run by a Management Committee comprising of a Chairman (Rachel Chapel), Vice-Chair (tbc) and a group of 10 or so parents. There are many different ways you can help with the Committee, whether you have lots of time to offer or not. Some of the roles are time-consuming, although also rewarding but if you can't commit to a big job, there are smaller roles such as being on the Fundraising Team or helping with admin. We meet once a term in the evening and meetings take approximately two hours, and they're fun meetings! It feels good to be involved and make a difference. Present Committee members are Rachel Chapel, Andrea Bell (stepping down as Vice-Chair), Pauline Plant, Sharon Light, Lucy Askew, Cath Smith, Kate Keating, Kate Chilcott, Henny Haworth-Booth, Bec Dolby (stepping down), Liz Matthews and Caroline Watson. Please speak to any of us to discuss joining the Committee.

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November – CRAFT FAIR, Tiddy Hall, 10 – 12noon**

Put the date in your diary – the Craft Fair is an amazing morning run by the staff. There is an entrance fee for children, £2.50, which includes a massive range of different crafts from making masks to jewellery to decorating biscuits. Plus you can stock-up on some early Christmas presents and cards as Usborne Books, Phoenix Cards and Neal's Yard will be there. Tea, coffee, soft drinks, bacon rolls and delicious cakes will be served and it's a wonderful social event. A great way for families to mix.

### **Film Night – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 8pm, Tiddy Hall**

#### **SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN starring Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt and Kristin Scott Thomas**

Adapted from the fantastic book by Paul Torday, this film is a must-see.

*'Blunt and McGregor act beautifully and their tale is charming'*  
Daily Mail

*'This is at times shamelessly hokey but forgivably so as it's engaging, uplifting and thoroughly enjoyable'* The Sun

*'See! This is how you do romantic comedy!... You make it funny by putting real people in a situation that's a just tad fantastical and watch them cope with it'* Flick Filosopher

*'Faith, serenity, dreams, possibilities, duty and honor, love . . . and fishing. "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" somehow ties them all together, and without so much as a kink in the line'* Movie Metropolis



Film Nights are great fun! Bring your friends neighbours or hook up with another Pre-school parent or just come by yourself and join a table. Ticket price of £12 includes the film, nibbles, delicious plate of chilli or vegetarian option, salad, jacket potato and yummy cakes.

Wine, beer and soft drinks are available from the bar. Tickets will be on-sale from Pre-school soon.

## NEWS

### **New Acquisitions**

The staff have been spending some of the amazing money raised last year by the Pre-school parents! The new acquisitions which your children are enjoying include a fabulous shop, washing machine, number elephants, board with bolts and drill, and a huge range of instruments – 15 drums, 25 triangles, a boomwacker. Still to arrive are fun foam bricks with 'cement' and a pulley system for the tree. And a very generous parent has given the Pre-school a toy dishwasher and cooker. Lucky children!



### **Structured Morning Routine**

After all the Mum's/Dad's/Carers have left, the children have register with all the staff, roughly 9.30am. Snacktime is at 10.30am where the children enjoy fruit, water or milk and a savoury snack. Please could the Helpers ensure that the snack is ready by 10.30am and that the staff's hot drinks are on the kitchen side of the hatch on a tray to stop children reaching up and grabbing the hot mugs! Trays are stored under the sink. Thank you so much.

### **Door Locking and Front Gate**

We would like to remind you of the importance of keeping the front door locked at all times. If the door is locked when you come to leave, please ask a member of staff or the helper to lock the door behind you. Please can you ensure that this is passed on to other members of the family and Carers including those that may not bring the children into school on a regular basis.

Once all the parents / carers have left, the staff will close the front gate. If you need to visit the Pre-school during the morning or afternoon session and the children are outside, please ensure the staff know you want to come in so they can move the children to a safe place before you drive in. Please close the gate behind you. If the children are inside, please open the gate but close it after you. Thank you.

Helpers – please park at the back of the car park, not at the front by the steps, thank you.

### **'Learning Journey' notebook**

These are to be used for communication about children's' learning at Home and Pre-school and it's a really important, vital link between the two.

The notebook will be kept in the front pocket of the rucksack and come in with the child each session. **Please** use the notebook to let the staff know of any milestones that your child has achieved at home or simply what your child has been up to over the weekend eg. helping Mummy cook supper, Grandpa coming to stay, using a potty for the first time, etc.

### **Kerri's Gardening Sessions**

Kerri Morgan, a very talented and incredibly generous gardening mum, runs a gardening session every Wednesday for those not at Forest School. Each week the children will be doing a different activity. This week the children have been making Sunflower Collages.



And the children can look forward to making Bee Houses, Leaf Butterflies, Teezle Mice, Bird Feeders, Pressed Flower Cards and even a Christmas surprise! A massive thank you to Kerri for all her hard work and time in giving the children such an enriching experience.

### **Naming Clothes**

Please could you ensure that all your child's clothes are named clearly. There is a fantastic website where you can order name labels, and raise money for Pre-school!  
[www.easy2name.com](http://www.easy2name.com) contributes 20% of every sale towards Pre-school.

## **Sickness**

If your child is sick or has diarrhoea, please keep them away from school for **48 hours from being WELL**. This is particularly important as we have a child at Pre-school who is diabetic and if she/he becomes sick or has diarrhoea, it could mean hospitalisation, very serious.

In the red parent file, there is a list of illnesses and recommended days to keep children off of school. If your child is unwell at school or is unwell one day and you bring them in the next, we are very sorry but we do have to send them back home. We really appreciate your co-operation on this.

## **Parents File**

There is a parents file on the table outside which has copies of the rotas, newsletters, general information for parents to look through.

## **Hide and Squeak Children's Theatre – Toddler Group, Ascott-under-Wychwood**

Tuesday mornings are Hide and Squeak mornings! It's all about Drama, Art, Music, Dance and FUN for children up to 3 years old (see attached flyer).

### **Programme**

9.45 Welcome Arts & Coffee	10.00 Hide & Squeak Warm-up
10.15 Meet Hide & Squeak	10.20 Story in the Cosy Corner
10.30 Improvised Drama	11.00 Mural-Making
11.15 Dance Finale	11.30 Snacks
11.45 Playtime	12.00 Bye-Bye

### **When**

September 11th, 18th & 25<sup>th</sup>

October 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd

### **Where**

Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Pavilion

Cost - **£2 per family**

Thank you to Emily Scates and Abbie Cooke for running this amazing morning.

# FUNDRAISING

During the year, the Pre-school organises various events to raise money for the Pre-school. This enables the staff to buy all the wonderful resources your children use on a daily basis. Last year a record-breaking £5280 was raised.

There is an amazing website, EASY FUNDRAISING, which has the backing of over 2000+ retailers including Next, Boden, M & S, John Lewis, Amazon, ELC, Mothercare and Sainsbury's.

If you go onto their website and register, then go onto the website you want to buy from ie. any of the 2000+ retailers, Pre-school get a percentage of the sale at no extra cost to you and there is no catch! Seems unbelievable but true!

If we all did our shopping, and in particular our Christmas shopping, through EASYFUNDRAISING, we'd raise so much money for Pre-school!

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/auwps>

# CLUB UPDATES

## FOREST SCHOOL



We have started our Forest School sessions again. Walking down the Lane - picking blackberries and looking for mini-beasts. Then walking further to the allotments, returning by the High St & back to the Pavilion for lunch! We will be using the minibus to visit Leaffield Community Woods and Kilkenny Country Park.

Do keep an eye on the weather - another layer of clothes may be needed?

I will be giving out the Forest School rucksacks soon - you will need to return them at the end of the year, lunch/drink inside and the front pocket is useful for a sunhat/gloves & hat.

## COOKERY CLUB



Cooking Club is running on both Monday and Tuesday afternoons this year. As soon as your child turns 3 years old and they attend either afternoon session, they will be able to join the club (numbers permitting).

The children learn about the importance of hygiene in a kitchen and the safe use of a variety of kitchen tools, such as knives and graters, mixers and scales...

The focus is on healthy eating, although we do make a number of treats along the way, and the children take home what they have made that day. There is usually enough to share at home. Not only do they do all the cooking, but also help with all the cleaning up afterwards.

The children are split up into small groups providing plenty of supervision and attention. Recipes are changed once each group has cooked so everyone gets to cook the same thing. For example, the first group made Tomato Pesto Rolls on Monday; they looked fantastic as they came out of the oven, and the aroma from the kitchen made for some very hungry teachers.

There are one or two places still available for those already 3, but otherwise a waiting list is operated, so please speak with either Nicky or your child's key person to put their name down. Those children who have already given their names to Nicky or Caroline are on the list. The cost is £5 per session.

### **Little Dancers- The Pre-school Dance Club**



Every Thursday 12.00-12.30pm. The Dance Club offers boys and girls over 3 years old the chance to explore a variety of dance styles, help to develop their coordination and enhance their sense of rhythm. Each session is themed. There are lots of dance based games and activities, an introduction to dance forms from different cultures, and plenty of opportunities for the children to express themselves!

The cost of attending Little Dancers is £2.50 per session. For more information please contact Sally on [Littledancers@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Littledancers@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Contact numbers**

**In School Hours: 07768 453747**

**Pauline: 07968 006451**

**Sharon: 07799 458124**