

TILLINGHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



SPRING TERM JANUARY 2015

Welcome back to pre-school. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas & New Year. This term we would like to welcome Finnley, George R, George C, Indigo, Jessica, Millie, Nathan, Reuben and Franklin to our pre-school and hope they enjoy their time with us.

FEES

PLEASE CAN YOU ENSURE THAT ALL FEES ARE PAID WITHIN **3 WEEKS** OF THE BEGINNING OF TERM, INCLUDING ANY OUTSTANDING FEES FROM LAST TERM. THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO BE ABLE TO PAY STAFF, PAY HALL HIRE FEES AND BILLS, PROVIDE SNACK, PURCHASE NEW EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES, FUND END OF TERM PARTIES AND ENTERTAINMENT ETC.

If you have any difficulties with fees please speak, in confidence, with Karen or Annette.

SCHOOL READINESS

Children that are going to be leaving pre-school in July should of by now received a letter from ourselves explaining all about our afternoon sessions and a copy of a letter from ECC about going to school or not!! If you have not received either of these please speak to Karen or Annette also if you have any concerns regarding your child going to school in September.

THEME

As it is a new term and a new year we are starting a new theme which will be 'Under the sea' and children will be taking part in activities relating to this. **We are planning a trip to the Sealife Centre in Southend on Friday 6th March 2015. Parents will have to accompany their children and there will be no afternoon session on this day. (Further details to follow).** If you have anything related to the theme that you think the children would find of interest and would extend their learning please feel free to bring it in and we promise to look after it!

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Email: tillpreschool@btinternet.com

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We welcome parents at any time if they wish to come and become more involved with their child's play and learning opportunities. We are also pleased for parents to give comments, ideas or suggestions on how the pre-school is run. Parents can also become more involved by joining the management committee of the pre-school. This would take up very little of your time and can be quite social! If you have any questions or thoughts or would like more information please speak to Karen or Annette.

CLOTHING

The children will have access to the outside area during every session, regardless of the weather and as we all know the weather can be very changeable so can you make sure that you child brings in the appropriate clothing in case of warm/cold/wet weather, such as coats, wellies, hats, sunhats otherwise their play and learning opportunities will be restricted to the inside.

We all know that children do occasionally have 'accidents' or get wet/dirty whilst playing, so can you supply a full change of clothes, including underwear, socks, vests, in a rucksack with your child's name clearly marked. This is to ensure that your child has a set of dry clothes that fits him/her as we have found that the pre-school box of spare clothes have gradually disappeared because parents have forgotten to return them. IF YOU HAVE ANY PRE-SCHOOL ITEMS WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD WASH AND RETURN THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

There are various items of pre-school uniform that are available for sale, from t-shirts, polo tops and sweatshirts all sporting the pre-school 'Scarecrow' logo. An order form for these can be found on the information table in the hall or speak to a member of staff.

JEWELLERY

Please ensure children do not come to pre-school with any form of jewellery i.e. watch, necklace, large earrings etc as they could quite easily get caught on equipment or other children.

LEARNING JOURNEY

Please remember that these are available for you to look at, take home to look at or add to at any time. Please speak to your child's key person if you would like to take a look at them.

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HOME SCHOOL LOG BOOKS

Your child's key person will complete a 'Home Log Book' which gives you feedback about your child. It will give you details about what your child has done during the session, how they felt, who they played with and what they ate for snack. All staff try to complete these on a regular basis as we know how important it is for you to read about what your child has done in pre-school. Sometimes, in the busier periods, they do get overlooked but you should expect to see an entry at least once a week. This book can be used as a two way form of communication between yourself and your child's key person and we like to see your comments in these books. By filling in what they have been up to whilst not at pre-school and especially at weekends, helps to give us a better understanding of their interests and their individual personalities, so please feel free to write in these books as often as you like.

LUNCH CLUBS

Don't forget that we run a 'Lunch Club' for our morning children on a Wednesday and Friday, from 12.00pm until 1.00pm. Two members of staff accompany the children over to St. Nicholas School, where they can have a lovely lunch in the hall with all the 'big' children. We find that the children really enjoy this and it really does help with their transition to school, so it will benefit your child in the term before they are due to start. It makes them aware of their surroundings and familiarises them with the school environment. The teachers often come over and introduce themselves and talk to the children. The children also get to see their friends who have previously left pre-school who also come over to say hello. **The cost of this is £3.00 per lunch payable weekly.** For this the children receive a hot meal with bread and butter, a desert and water is supplied for them to drink. We have always received excellent feedback about 'Lunch Club' and see it as very beneficial to those children getting ready to take that big step to primary school. We had a really good response last term so please could you let a member of staff know if you wish to send your child.

THURSDAY LUNCHBOX CLUB

Our Thursday Lunchbox Club was very successful last term. If you would like your child to attend, we ask that you send your child in with a suitable **healthy** packed lunch and drink in a lunch box with their name on. This club has proved popular and the children love to see what others have in their lunch box and to sit around the table with the staff who run it. We have a story whilst the other children go home and then some singing at the end of the session. It is in the Village Hall from 12.00pm until 12.55pm and is **£2.50 per session**. For regular attendees, Karen will send

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home an invoice for the amount due for the term and due to the numbers of children now attending it would be less confusing if fees are paid promptly at the beginning of the term rather than on a weekly basis. If anyone has any difficulties please speak, in confidence, with Karen or Annette.

If you would like your child to attend please speak to a member of staff.

FOOD AND DRINK

Please can you ensure that children attending pre-school (or siblings) do not bring food, sweets or drink into the Village Hall. We have a few children who have allergies to certain foods and would therefore advise that food or drink from home are left at home or in the car before entering pre-school. It can also be upsetting for other children if one child has sweets and others do not, so we would prefer it if you would please wait until you are outside before giving children food, drinks or sweets. **Also please ensure no food or drink is left in your child's bag hanging on their coat hook as these bags are often opened and another child could access them.**

TOYS BROUGHT INTO PRE-SCHOOL

It is lovely that the children like to bring toys or comforters into pre-school and we are happy for them to do this. The toys will be kept in a safe box until the session is over. Please can we ask that if your child would like to bring in a toy, can you ensure it is a small one, especially on a Wednesday and Friday if they are going over to school dinners. It makes it very difficult for the staff to carry everything over to St. Nicholas School.

CONTACT DETAILS

Don't forget if you change any of your contact details please let us know so that we can amend our records. It is so important to have these up to date so that you can be contacted in an emergency.

If there are any other points that you wish to discuss please feel free to speak to a member of staff to arrange a time to suit you.

TERM DATES

Spring Term:

Monday 5th January 2015 - Friday 27th March 2015

Half Term 16th February - 20th February 2015

Summer Term:

Monday 13th April 2015 - Wednesday 22nd July 2015

Half Term 25th May - 29th May 2015

May Bank Holiday 4th May 2015