

# TILLINGHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## **SUMMER TERM JUNE 2015**

Welcome back to pre-school. We hope you all had a lovely half-term break. This term we would like to welcome Abigail, Amy, Daisy-Mai, Harrison, Reuben, Jacob, Mia & Tommy to our pre-school and hope they enjoy their time with us.

Firstly we have a few important dates for you to be aware of over the coming few weeks. In case you forget to note them down a copy of the newsletter will appear on the website ([www.tillinghampreschool.co.uk](http://www.tillinghampreschool.co.uk)).

### **19<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015**

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015 our photographer will be coming into the session to take a group photograph of all the children. This photograph is a lovely memento of your child's time at pre-school and if you would like to child to be in it please arrive in pre-school uniform if you have it. Children who do not attend on Fridays can come in for the photograph at 9.30am.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2015**

Please note that the pre-school will be **closed** on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 for staff training.

### **9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015 we will be holding the annual pre-school sports day for **all** of the pre-school children even if they do not usually attend on a Tuesday. The races will be on the Westfield but we ask that you drop your child off at pre-school and then make your way over to the field where we will join you once we have completed registration. There will be lots of races for you to cheer and make sure you wear suitable footwear because we usually have a Mums and Dads race and the children really love to see their parents/carers taking part!

### **25<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

The Tillingham Flower Show will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July this year and as in previous years there will be a procession by the pre-school children, their parent/carers and staff. The theme for the Flower Show is

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'princesses and superheroes' so the children (and parents/carers if they wish!) can dress up in their favourite costumes for the procession. Last year the turn out for the procession was very poor, although several of the pre-school children were seen lining the street with their parents. It would be lovely if everyone could come and support/represent the pre-school by joining in with the procession, it doesn't take too long and then you are free to enjoy the rest of the Flower Show with your friends and families.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2015**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July is the last day of term before the summer holiday start. We will be holding a Graduation Ceremony for the children who are leaving followed by a party. The party will be open to all pre-school children and parent/carers are expected to stay and party with their child. It is a great opportunity to chat to staff and other parents also. An entertainer from 'Perfect Party People' has been booked for the occasion. Details will follow near the time.

## **MEDICINE**

If your child is taking any medication which may need to be administered during the session please do not leave it in your child's bag. Please hand it to a member of staff who will ask you to complete a form to give us permission to administer the medicine and details of dosage needed.

## **CLOTHING**

Since starting our PE in the afternoon we have noticed that some of the children are getting very frustrated with their clothing and footwear as they are getting changed, not being able to take off or put on certain items by themselves. Children's self confidence and self esteem can suffer as a result, when they see all their friends are able to dress or undress themselves quickly and without help while they are struggling. Please be mindful of what your child is wearing so that they can manage their own fastenings on clothes and shoes so that they can become both independent and confident.

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. If the weather is hot and sunny please apply sunscreen to your child before you leave them with us.

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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.

### **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 over looked 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, drink and spoon (if needed) in a lunch box with their name on. Please save sweets for after pre-school when you collect them rather than including it as part of their lunch.** 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 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

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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**

We are happy for younger children to bring in comfort toys to pre-school although please limit the amount to one small toy. Sometimes the children can get confused/upset thinking that another child's toy belongs to them because they have the same toy at home. All toys will be put into a safe box and handed back to your child at home time. Pre-school leavers will not be able to take toys to 'Big School' when they go so to help them get used to the idea we request that the 'leavers' do not bring any more toys into pre-school.

### **FEEES**

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.

### **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**

#### **Summer Term:**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

Half Term 25<sup>th</sup> May - 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015

May Bank Holiday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015

#### **Autum Term:**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Half Term 26<sup>th</sup> October - 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015

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