

TILLINGHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



SPRING TERM JANUARY 2016

Welcome back to pre-school. We hope everyone had a fabulous Christmas and New Year. We have a few new children who have joined our pre-school and so we would like to say a big welcome to Alayna-Mae, Isabelle, Layla, Skye and Cayleb. We hope that they enjoy their time with us.

Firstly we have a few general reminders and dates for you to be aware of but in case you forget to note them down, a copy of the newsletter will appear on the website (www.tillinghampreschool.co.uk) and Karen will add information onto our Facebook page for you to view regularly.

We have placed a '**COMMENTS BOOK**' on the table by the door. Please feel free to read or to write any comments you may wish to share with us.

OFSTED INSPECTION

As you are aware, we recently had an Ofsted inspection (6/11/15) which went really well and we were awarded a 'GOOD' rating. Unfortunately, we missed out on an 'OUTSTANDING' rating due to two minor points which we will be reviewing in order to improve our provision. We have registered a complaint with Ofsted about points in the report and we will update you on the outcome as soon as we hear from them. In due course we will be sending home information in connection with one of these points to ensure that you fully understand the processes involved with your child's development in their journey through pre-school. We will be having a coffee morning to discuss the details further, dates to be advised. We will also be sending out a questionnaire to all parents/carers to learn your views, knowledge, ideas and any feedback you may have regarding the pre-school. The Ofsted inspection report is available on the Ofsted website www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk should you wish to read it.

THEME

Our theme this term is "Homes". We will be looking at the types of homes we live in, our animals live in, insects, wild animals and people in other countries. We may be asking for photos of your houses so please be prepared in advance!!

Registered Charity No: 1026438 - Ofsted Reference: 203701

Email: tillpreschool@btinternet.com

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

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 cold/wet weather, such as coats and wellies, otherwise their play and learning opportunities will be restricted to the inside. Please be mindful of what your child is wearing so that they can try to manage their own fastenings on clothes and shoes so that they can become both independent and confident.

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.**

Please can also ensure that your child has indoor and outdoor footwear, such as a pair of wellies **and** shoes or slippers, because the garden can become quite muddy during the autumn/winter months and we do not want mud all over the hall and the children's toys and mats.

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 (**studs** are most suitable) etc as they could quite easily get caught on equipment or other children.

FOOD AND DRINK

Please can you ensure that children attending pre-school (or their 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

We are happy for younger children to bring in comfort toys to pre-school although please limit the amount to one small toy. Once your child has settled the toy will be put into a safe box and handed back to your child at home time.

LEARNING JOURNEY (Your child's learning and development record)

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. Please also check out '**What to expect, when**' on the website or via our Facebook page to find out what you can do together with your child at home to enhance and further their learning and development. If you do any of the fun activities suggested please send in photos so that we can add them to your child's Learning Journey. If you would like a printed copy these are available at a cost of £2 each.

HOME/SCHOOL LOG BOOKS

Your child's key person will complete a 'Home/School 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 do 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.

ALL LUNCH CLUBS - PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY FOR CHILD'S LUNCH AT THE START OF THE SESSION.

SCHOOL 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

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.

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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.

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 4th January 2016 - Thursday 24th March 2016
(Half Term 15-19 February)

Summer Term:

Monday 11th April 2016 - Friday 22 July 2016
(Half Term 31st May - 3rd June) May Bank Holiday 2nd May 2016