

WEST HALLAM VILLAGE PRE-SCHOOL **NEWSLETTER 1 - AUTUMN 2017**

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the Pre-School year!
We hope you had a lovely summer and we offer a warm welcome back to our children from last term. We have also enjoyed meeting all our new starters, who have settled in well with very few tears, which is fantastic! We are very much looking forward to an enjoyable term ahead!

This term

We have welcomed a total of 15 new starters in the first half term, so we have concentrated on helping the children to get to know the staff, and to separate from their parent/carer without upset (to the children and the adults!). We work hard to ensure that the children feel happy and secure, and to help them become familiar with our routines.

They are learning the names of the staff and other children by singing our welcome song at the beginning of each session. During snack times, they are encouraged to choose from a selection of snacks and helped to pour their own drinks to gain their independence.

We are enjoying our 'All About Me' theme – the children have drawn around their hands and have created a picture of their own faces. We are learning about each other's families, parts of the body, pets and likes and dislikes. We have been enjoying the September sunshine with lots of outdoor play. We are looking forward to collecting some natural objects from around the preschool grounds to create pictures and do some leaf printing while we talk about the changes in Autumn. We have had local walks to explore the changes in our environment and have been using fruit and vegetables to create printed pictures and have introduced the children to bark rubbing and exploring different textures outside.

Partnership with parents

We are always looking for ways to enhance our ethos of working in partnership with parents. If you have any ideas please bring them forward. We have had suggestions and are putting them into practise.

Our 'Wow cards' are for you to tell us about what your child has done at home, from potty training to swimming lessons, dance lessons or counting, anything your child has achieved that you can share with us. These cards can be found near the signing in book and we can discuss them with the group and share achievements.

We have introduced more book bags and chatter bags that the children can bring home and share with you. Your feedback on this activity would be very much appreciated.

New Logo

This year is an incredibly important one for our pre-school, as we celebrate our 50th year caring for children, and our largest development to date as we change our venue and prepare to offer new and exciting facilities. Our friends at Redcar Design in Ilkeston have kindly brought our logo up to date and we are delighted with the new contemporary look. We were really happy with their service and couldn't recommend them enough if you are looking for a similar service for your business. Now that we have a fresh look we will be updating the website too, so watch this space!

Snacks

At snack time, we offer each child a choice of drink and 3-4 snacks, which always include healthy choices. We also listen to children's requests for different snacks. At the moment, we are monitoring snack time to check children's likes and dislikes. **Whilst we do not make a compulsory charge for snacks, we would request a voluntary contribution from each family of £3 per half term.** An envelope will be provided with your child's session fees invoice should you wish to contribute to the snacks. Please hand this envelope back to whichever staff member is at the door taking the register. This will help support us in continuing to offer fresh, healthy snacks daily to your children. Thank you for your anticipated help!

Lunch

If your child attends Pre-School all day please include a cool ice pack in their child's lunch box to keep their lunch cool during the morning, as we are unable to store food in our fridge. Could you please wrap the cool pack in kitchen foil, so that the rest of their lunch box does not become wet as it melts? Can your child's lunch box please have their name on it? Thank you.

We currently have two children in Pre-School who have nut allergies, so we would ask all parents to be very careful about what you put in your child's lunch box. Can parents please ensure that no items containing nuts are included in your child's lunch box – this includes peanut brittle and sandwich spreads, such as peanut butter and Nutella to name but a few. Thank you for your continuing help with this.

Invoices/Pre-school fees

Please can we take this opportunity to remind everyone that the most secure way of paying your fees is by online banking, all the details you would need can be found at the bottom of the invoices. If this is not possible for you then a cheque made payable to West Hallam Village Preschool is the next most secure way. If your only way of payment is by cash, then please hand this to either **Coral or Gayna** and wait for them to write you a receipt. As we do not like to hold too much cash on the premises we need to make sure that it is all accounted for. Thank you for your continued assistance.

Attendance

Following guidelines from the County Council, here are some requirements if your child is absent from Pre-School as follows:

1. If your child has a pre-arranged appointment, or you are going on holiday, please let a staff member know in advance.
2. If your child is ill, please ring Pre-School during their first missed session (or as soon as possible after), to let us know. We would remind you that children are required to be away from Pre-school for 48 hours following the last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea.
3. For any absence, due to holiday or illness, we are required to record the reason in writing and you will be asked to sign a form upon your child's return.

Easy Fundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for West Hallam Pre-School West Hallam?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westhallampreschool/>
and join for free.

Please Note that since we first advised you of the website the address has changed slightly. The above address is now the correct one.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and West Hallam Pre-School West Hallam will be really grateful for your donations.

Updating telephone numbers

Please let know if there have been any changes to your home or mobile phone numbers since you filled in your child's registration details.

Fundraising

We have recently signed up to a new scheme which means we are now fundraising by collecting old British or foreign coins and notes, even currency which is out of circulation.

So, any leftover coins or notes from your summer holidays this year, bring them along and hand to a member of staff to add to the collection.

Posters and a collection bucket is on the way to us, and once all the currency has been collected over the next academic year we will send it to www.cash4coins.co.uk who exchanges it into cash that we can use for our setting.

Furthermore, we've decided to run the recycling project again for used printer cartridges and mobile phones. A new box will be in the classroom shortly.

Thanks in advance for your support on our initiatives and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Scargill School Open Day

On Thursday 5th October between 9.30am – 12pm, Scargill School are holding an open day for prospective parents to have a good look around. All Pre-School parents and children are also welcome to go and have a look around our prospective premises and we will have some committee members there on the day to answer any questions and show you around. Look forward to seeing you there.

Facebook Page

We now run a Facebook page especially for parents/carers and grandparents? It's designed to give you a snapshot of the activities we do with the children within pre-school and to update you on any fundraising events we are involved in. Search for 'West Hallam Village Pre-school' and add yourself to this closed group, please note, no images of the children will be used on this platform.

Requests for help please!

- If any parents or carers have an interesting hobby, occupation or talent that they would like to share with all our children by visiting a session then please let a member of staff know. We are keen for our children to have as varied a learning environment as possible!
- If any parents or carers can spare 20 minutes at the end of a session to help us to wash up and clear away then we would be grateful. There is a rota by the signing in book or please speak to a member of staff.

Complaints Procedure

We are required to advise you that our Complaints Procedure is given in the back of your Starter Pack and on our notice board.

Reminders

- Please can we remind you to be punctual, where possible, in dropping off and collecting your children to avoid disruption to the sessions and unnecessary upset to the children. If you are going to be late in dropping off or collecting, please phone ahead if you can do so.
- Please check the Notice board which is positioned outside Pre-school for important dates, news and other events!

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 17th October - A.G.M. – 8 pm in the Pavilion, West Hallam.
 Friday 20th October - Last day of term
 Monday 30th October - Inset Day, Pre-School is closed to the children.
 Tuesday 31st October - First day of term.

From the Staff & Committee

Pre-School Telephone Number: 07905 072997

EMAIL COMMUNICATION REPLY SLIP

NAME OF CHILD:

.....

We do want to receive the newsletter and other communication via email*. The email address to be used is: (please print clearly)

.....

We do not want to receive the newsletter and other communication via email* and would prefer a paper copy.

SIGNED:

PRINT NAME:

*Please delete as appropriate

If you have already filled in one of these forms you do not need to fill in another one unless you change your preference. Thank you.