

WEST HALLAM VILLAGE PRE-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2 - AUTUMN 2019



Welcome to our 2nd Newsletter of the school year!

UPDATE ON LAST HALF TERM

We had a fantastic time learning all about autumn and the changes of the seasons. We have been busy making Autumn leaf pictures, colouring in pictures of pumpkins and talking about the beautiful Autumn colours. Everyone enjoyed exploring our Autumn tuff spot complete with leaves, sticks, conkers and pinecones. The children had fun scooping out pumpkins, chopping and cutting up different seasonal vegetables. We then explored the insides and used the pumpkins to make houses and tunnels for our train track and car mat.



The fun of the Fair was celebrated in style, with fair games, colouring's and a game of Hook-a-Duck. We made our own chocolate apples and enjoyed hot dogs at snack time.

THIS TERM

We have been celebrating Bonfire Night by making some fantastic firework paintings. The children have also been able to talk about any bonfires that they have been to and safety around both fires and fireworks. We pretended to be fire fighters and put out fires with our hose. We also enjoyed looking at a video of fireworks on the interactive whiteboard



For Remembrance Day we talked about how brave our soldiers are and were, in all times of war and conflict and the significance of the Poppy. The children coloured some poppy pictures and made poppies on the interactive white board and mark Making in the red sand.



The children have also enjoyed dressing up in spotty outfits and bringing their teddies in support of Children in Need. We enjoyed lots of different Pudsey bear activities. We raised a total of £50.31, so thank you to all those who donated.

This half term will be full steam ahead for a busy Christmas with lots of "Jingle Bells" and "When Santa got stuck up the chimney" singing practice for our concert for our older children. This will take place on **11th December at 2pm** in the old hall at Scargill School and all parents, carers, family and friends of our older children are invited to attend.

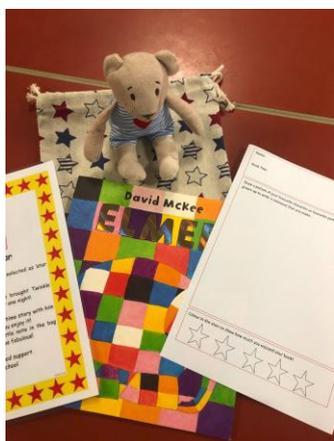
Our Christmas party will take place on Friday 20th December between 10.30am and 12.30pm. There will be a special visit from Santa and presents for all the children and lots and lots of Christmas glitter, tinsel, snowflakes and fun!

Hopefully everyone has already received information about the concert and party.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Our family photo board is looking lovely. If you have not brought your photo in yet, please could you send in your family photo in a frame if possible so that we can display it on our wall.

The Story bags will continue to be sent out; we hope you enjoy reading the stories with your children. Please return the book bags once you have read the book.



Have you met Twinkle Bear? He is our new Star of the Day reward. When your child has been chosen as Star of the Day, they will bring home our special Story Bear to stay for the night, then please return him. Each child will have a turn at being Star of the Day over the coming year.

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.

AGM

At our A.G.M., we were joined by 7 new committee members which is great news for us all at Pre-School. Thank you to our outgoing committee members for all their hard work over the last year!

FACEBOOK/TWITTER

We 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 group.

Our Twitter page can be found under @west_pre Please check it out for our latest information and news to keep up to date with Pre-School life.

REMINDERS

- Please ensure that, as the weather turns colder, your child is sent to Pre-School with a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves as we will be going outside as much as possible.
Please could all items of clothing also be named, thank you.
- Can we remind parents that if your child has a cold, is coughing or sneezing or is unwell in any way, please keep them at home. If a child has suffered from sickness and/or diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep them away from Pre-School until at least 48 hours has elapsed since the last attack. Thank you.

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.



SNACKS

At snack time, we currently offer each child a choice of drink and 3-4 snacks, which always include healthy choices. Following the recent parent questionnaires, we have increased the variety of snacks that we offer. We are asking parents for a voluntary contribution of £3.50 per half term to support us in continuing to offer fresh, healthy snacks, this is proving a remarkable success. Our new snack donation basket is now in the Welcome Room. If you have any leftover fruit that you can donate for the children's snack. This will help us with rising costs and help us to continue to offer a varied snack time. Thank you for your anticipated help!

LUNCH

If your child attends Pre-School all day please include a cool ice pack in your 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? If you send your child with grapes for lunch, please could you cut them in half or quarters lengthways to prevent any choking hazard. Thank you.



Grapes should always be cut lengthwise so they can pass more easily through smaller throats. And never widthwise, because they'll still be big enough to choke on. You can either slice them downwards in half, or for small babies, you might want to cut them lengthwise again into quarters.

We currently have a child in Pre-School who has a nut allergy, 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.

COMMUNICATION

If you need to contact Pre-School about either your child being ill or having a holiday or you would like to speak to a member of staff, we would ask you to please ring or text the Pre-School telephone number as this is checked each session. Emails are only checked once or twice a week and we do not want to miss any important communications from you.

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 **Sam** and wait for her 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 11 th December	Christmas Concert 2pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Messy Church 1-3pm
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Party 10.30-12.30pm
Friday 20 th December	End of Term
Monday 6 th January 2020	Inset Day – Pre-School will be closed
Tuesday 7 th January 2020	Term begins
Friday 14 th February 2020	End of Half Term
Monday 24 th February 2020	Term Begins
Friday 3 rd April 2020	Break up for Easter Holidays
Monday 20 th April 2020	Term Begins
Monday 4 th May 2020	Bank Holiday – Pre-School will be closed
Friday 22 nd May 2020	Break up for Half Term
Monday 1 st June 2020	Inset Day – Pre-School will be closed.
Tuesday 2 nd June 2020	Term Begins
Friday 26 th June 2020	Inset Day – Pre-School will be closed
Tuesday 21 st July 2020	Last Day of Term

The Staff and Committee of West Hallam Village Pre-School would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thank you for all your support over the last year.

Pre-School Telephone Number: 07905 072997