

WEST HALLAM VILLAGE PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 3 - SPRING 2018

Welcome to our third newsletter of the school year and Happy New Year!

We ended the Christmas half term well with our Christmas Concert and Parties; all of which were brilliant - we hoped you and your children enjoyed them!

This term

We would like to welcome all our new starters and our existing children and their families to our amazing new premises. It looks like it will be a busy and fun term settling into our new surroundings!

This month the children will be taking part in sensory activities and projects to test their sense of smell and touch using different materials, shapes and scents. The children will be using their sense of hearing by going on listening walks where they will also use their sense of sight by observing the local area. We are sure that the children will enjoy testing their taste buds with Pancake Day approaching!

Later in the month, we will be celebrating a busy Chinese New Year, the Year of the Dog, with dressing up, dancing with our Chinese dragon, food tasting, practising Chinese writing and making kites, lanterns and fans.

We will also be talking about the special people in our lives and making cards for Valentine's Day.

Attendance

The Council have specified certain requirements if your child is absent from Pre-School as follows:

- If your child has a pre-arranged appointment, or you are going on holiday, please let a staff member know in advance.
- If your child is ill, please ring Pre-School during their first missed session (or as soon as possible after), to let us know.
- If your child has been absent from Pre-School for more than 5 consecutive days, we will ask you to complete a form detailing the reason.

PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL US REGARDING CHILDREN'S ABSENCE AS WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE EMAIL DAILY.

Now that Pre-School runs from within the School site please can we ask that you arrive promptly at the start of each session so that we can ensure that the children are settled as quickly as possible? This is particularly important when your child is attending an afternoon session now we are in the school as for safeguarding reasons the gates must be locked to ensure the safety of all the children attending Pre-School and School. If there is a reason why your child is going to be late then please let the staff know in advance if possible. Our Pre-School gate will be open between 9-9.15, 11.55-12.15 and 2.55. It will be locked at all other times. If you are late or need to collect your child, this will have to be done through the main school reception and a member of our staff will have to collect you and your child and escort you to and from the Pre-School area. If possible, please ring the Pre-School phone on 07905 072997 to advise them of your arrival so that we can arrange to meet you. This then does not need to disturb the School staff.

Reminders

- Please do not include any of the following items in your child's lunch box:
 - Nuts – including peanut butter in sandwiches (we have children attending with allergies)
 - Sweets (e.g. haribos) and fizzy drinks. Children who will be attending Scargill and possibly other local schools will not be allowed to take these for 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?
- As the weather is now colder, can we please ask parents to send their children to Pre-School in warm coats, hats, scarves and mittens/ gloves as we will be going outside whenever possible. Can you please ensure that all items, including bags and lunchboxes, are clearly named?
- We would like to ask parents wherever possible not to bring in toys from home. This causes distress when other children want to play with them and if they are lost amongst all our Pre-School equipment.

Parking

We would like to remind parents that the area at the entrance to Pre-School off Hallam Way where the yellow road markings are, is not for pulling into or parking at any time of the day. It should be kept clear at all times in accordance with the road markings. We have received complaints that particularly at the lunch time change over parents are parking here to drop off or pick up their children. It is important that we as a Pre-School adhere to the rules regarding this. Thank 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 either **Sheane 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.

Golden Rules

- At Pre-School, we have a set of Golden Rules which we will be working on with the children. We hope you will support us in encouraging these rules!
 - **We listen carefully to keep us safe**
 - **We are always polite and say please and thank you**
 - **We are kind to each other and share our toys**

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.

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 per half term to support us in continuing to offer fresh, healthy snacks, this is proving a remarkable success. Thank you for your anticipated help!

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.

Communication

At Pre-school we are looking for ways to make things easier for you, as Parents and Carers, to keep in touch with events and news at Pre-school. We would like to send newsletters by email where possible. If you are interested in receiving an email rather than a paper copy, could you please complete the slip at the bottom of this newsletter and return this to us as soon as possible. If you have previously returned this slip, there is no need to fill in another one. Thank you!

Thanks

We would like to send our sincere thanks to Councillor Carol Hart who has generously donated £500.00 to use towards the new setting, as part of the Derbyshire County Council Leadership Scheme. The funding has provided us with a new carpet in the welcome room, two changing mats and the nappy/wipe storage tower. Without these grants our staff and committee have to work extra hard to fund raise as we continue to run as a charity.

Special thanks go to Nellie's Dad and his removal business for doing a fantastic job on the day of the move by providing the transport, a staff member, packing boxes and most of all their time. Without his generosity we would have had to rely on volunteers and it would have been a much lengthy (and stressful!) job. The service we received was brilliant and we would highly recommend them - details can be found at: www.housetohomeremovals.co.uk '

Dates for your diary

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Friday 16th February | - Last day of half term |
| Monday 26 th February | - First day of new half term |
| Friday 23 rd March | - Break up for Easter Holidays |
| Monday 9 th April | - First day of new (Summer) term |
| Monday 7 th May | - May Day, Pre-School will be closed |
| Friday 25 th May | - Last day of half term |
| Monday 4 th June | - Inset Day, Pre-School will be closed |
| Tuesday 5 th June | - First day of new half term |
| Friday 29 th June | - Inset day, Pre-School will be closed |
| Friday 20 th July | - Last Day of Summer 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*.

SIGNED:

PRINT NAME:.....

*Please delete as appropriate

If you have previously filled in this form you do not need to do it again unless you would like to change your preferences.

Thank you