

## **WEST HALLAM VILLAGE PRE-SCHOOL** **NEWSLETTER 3 - SPRING 2019**

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.



In January during our 'Winter Wonderland' topic we explored lots of icy activities along with discussions about the weather and arctic animals. We are having a week celebrating 'Super heroes' which will involve lots of dressing up and role play.

February will bring a flurry of activities while we celebrate pancake day with some yummy tasting toppings that we will enjoy with our pancakes during snack time. We will be thinking of the people we love while

we celebrate St Valentine's Day. This will include card making, cake making and decorating and lots of creative activities.

Before we break up for half term, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year – the Year of the Pig - with dressing up, dancing with our Chinese dragon, food tasting, practising Chinese writing and making kites, lanterns and fans.

We are excited to start planning to further develop our outside area and this will be supported by some interesting fund-raising ideas. Further details will follow.

### **Family Photos**

If you have not yet sent in your family photo to be included on our Family Picture Board in the Welcome Room, it is not too late! You are welcome to send in a family picture with or without a frame

## 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. Haribo's) 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?

## 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.
- For safeguarding reasons, if we are unaware of your child being absent and your child has not arrived at Pre-School before 9.45 or 12.45 a staff member will contact you by telephone.

## **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 until 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.

## Staff Shout Out Board

Coming soon our new 'staff shout out board' and a new 'parent/carer question of the week', these will soon become new features in the Welcome Room.

## 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 **Sam or Sheane** 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**

## Star of the Day

We have recently introduced our 'Star of the Day' certificate. The staff choose a 'Star' every morning and afternoon. Our aim is to promote and reinforce positive behaviour. The children have been very excited about the certificate and the possibility of receiving one.



## 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.

## 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!

## Facebook Page

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 closed group, please note, no images of the children will be used on this platform.

Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of term
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Term begins <b>(although Scargill will be shut this day, Pre-School will still be open as normal).</b>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of term
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Term begins
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Inset Day – Pre-School will be closed
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Term begins
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Pre-School Summer Fair
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Inset Day – Pre-School will be closed
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Peer Group Leavers Party (details to follow)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Inset Day – Pre-School will be closed

**From the Staff & Committee**

**Pre-School Telephone Number: 07905 072997**