

Preschool 345 News

May 2016



Parents/carers, please feel free to chat with staff or committee members if you need any information or have a question. We will all be happy to help or to point you towards someone who can.



**Calling all dads, grandads, uncles...
Join us on a visit to
East Midlands Aeropark
Saturday 13th August 12noon**



**Oban and Rich (two dads who volunteer on the committee) would like to invite
Preschool 345 dads (or other male carers) to bring the kids to meet for an
afternoon at the aeropark.**

**Girls and boys are welcome and parking is free. Admission is £4 for adults, £2
for 5-16 year olds and free for under 5s.**

**You can find out more about the aeropark at
www.eastmidlandsaeropark.org/visit**

Sign up on the sheet in Preschool if you would like to get involved.

SOME DIARY DATES

LAST DAY OF THIS HALF TERM – Friday 27th May
FIRST DAY OF NEXT HALF TERM – Monday 6th June
LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM – Friday 22nd July

SPORTS DAY – Friday 1st July, 11am – further details soon
LEAVERS' PARTY – Friday 8th July, pm – further details soon



Please donate your
Sainsbury's Active
Kids vouchers to
Preschool 345 by
8th July



Getting Ready For School

Exciting times are ahead for many of our children...

We are often asked what children should be doing to prepare for school and what will be expected of them. We have spoken to all the local schools that our children move on to and the overwhelming advice is Independence and Self Care - especially with regards to toilet routines!!

Here are our top tips:

- Support your child to be confident about getting to the loo in time and wiping properly, using toilet paper rather than moist wipes. Do you have a different phrase for going to the toilet at home? Letting the class teacher know what this is will ensure they understand what your child is trying to ask.
- Washing their hands. Chat about the importance of good handwashing with soap and water, especially after going to the toilet or handling animals. A good way of showing how germs can linger is to let your child cover their hands in paint (pretend germs!) and then try to wash it all off.
- Dressing and undressing. Let your child practice putting on their school clothes, taking them off and folding them neatly in preparation for PE lessons, especially if there are fiddly fastenings such as shirt buttons and zips. Clothes with elastic bands and shoes with Velcro® are easier to handle for young children. Teach your child tricks such as putting labels at the back, holding cuffs to stop sleeves riding up and wrinkling tights to put toes in first.
- Free school meals will be available to all children from reception to year 2, but many schools will offer the option of packed lunches, too. Children having school dinners need to be able to use a full-sized knife and fork and carry a plate or tray. If your child is taking a lunchbox, make sure they can open it as well as any containers and packets inside.
- Using a tissue. Introduce your child to the routine of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' (catching their sneeze or runny nose in a tissue, putting it in the bin straightaway, then washing hands to kill germs). Some children find nose-blowing difficult, so play games to practice nose control – blowing a feather into the air, for example.

Social Skills a Child Needs Before Starting School

While your child has been at Preschool 345 we have been helping them to develop these very important life skills. Social skills are the key to making and keeping friends at school, and your child needs to know a few basic social skills before they start school.

- Learning to share and take turns
- Understanding boundaries for acceptable behaviour
- Being able to follow simple instructions and focus when an adult is speaking.
- Being able to tell someone how they are feeling.

You can find some really practical advice at:

www.pacey.org.uk/Pacey/media/Websitefiles/school%20ready/PACEY_preparingforschool_guide.pdf



The Preschool staff spent the recent INSET day working on team building and problem solving activities – and ended up with an igloo for the children to enjoy...





This May, Preschool 345 is one of three local charities chosen by Waitrose (Wollaton branch) to receive a share of their monthly £1000 donation. Shoppers are given green tokens which they may post into one of the three boxes in the foyer – the more tokens we get, the bigger the portion of the money we receive.

PRESCHOOL 345 SUMMER FAIR



SATURDAY JULY 2ND

Our annual summer fair is fast-approaching. Please put the date in your diary and come along for a fun community event which raises vital additional funds for our preschool. Bring family and friends to enjoy stalls, games, crafts, food and music.

There are lots of ways to get involved if you wish...

- Volunteer to help – spare an hour or two to help set up, run a stall or clear away at the end
 - Have a clear out at home and send good quality toys and books to be sold at the fair
 - Bake something for our cake stall
 - Buy raffle tickets and/or donate a prize
- Contribute to our new 'Chocolate Tombola' stall – boxes and bars of chocolate needed
- Fill a couple of plastic cups with small toys & treats for our popular 'Lucky Cups' stall

Look out for further details on all of the above, coming soon!

Fund-raising news

The proceeds of our committee-led fundraising events are used to buy additional resources for the benefit of all of the children who attend Preschool 345. These resources include new toys and equipment and also outside providers who offer our children new experiences. We have regular sessions with Rockabillies and Manor Arts and, recently, children have enjoyed 'Beat Feet'...