



Preschool 345 Newsletter December 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.

Christmas Fair

A note from Tina about the Fair:



A great morning of fun and Christmas cheer was had by all on 10th December. Thank you everyone for singing along with the Children, I think a lot of the children had stage fright this year!

We raised a whopping £600! This money will be put to good use, look out for a new sand pit next spring.

I would like to say a massive Thank You to our amazing committee and band of volunteers without whom events such as this would not happen!

Thank you to everyone who supported the fair – by donating goods, baking, buying raffle tickets, volunteering, and, of course, coming along on the day.

Christmas Party!

What a great party we had this year, lots of yummy food was eaten and Geoffrey Jumper, as ever, was amazing! We also had a special visit from Santa! The children made him giggle by singing 'When Santa Got Stuck Up a Chimney', Santa did assure us he had not been stuck up a chimney recently. Ho Ho



SOME DIARY DATES

END OF TERM - Tue 20th Dec 2016

FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM – Weds 4th Jan 2017

SPRING HALF TERM – 13th – 17th Feb 2017



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM took place on Friday 19th November.

THANK YOU to the many parents and carers who took the time to attend, and contribute to, the meeting.

The committee for the coming year was elected and reports were presented by Tina, Trudi and Cath (our Chairperson).

A copy of the minutes of the meeting will soon be available on the parents/carers table if you wish to read further details.

- Our newsletter is published once every half term
- You should receive an email version during the last week of each half term
- Paper copies are also made available on the parent/carer information table



Tatty Ted's adventures...

It seems our appeal in last term's newsletter for Tatty to return to preschool worked as a few weeks ago the intrepid explorer tapped his furry little paw on the door and returned to us safe and sound with fantastic stories of all his adventures.



No sooner had he arrived back and rested his weary paws for a day or two then he was off again in search of more fun and friendships.

When Tatty went to Tilly's house not only did he have fun with Tilly and her sisters but he also made friends with another furry character - Felix the fox who was also visiting the family. They all had a busy few days including going to a trampolining party and Tatty tells us that Tilly was fantastic at looking after him when they watched the fireworks and how she made sure he didn't burn his little paws when they had sparklers. Well done Tilly.

Findley did a fantastic job of keeping Tatty safe when he took him Christmas shopping to Yorkshire. Tatty said they had a lovely time and the trip put him in a festive spirit. He also played trains and watched Findley and his little brother swimming. Tatty thought they were like little fish!

Tatty says he is looking forward to Christmas very much, particularly to hearing all the children sing the Christmas songs, to putting up his Christmas tree and to leaving a carrot and mince pie for Rudolph and Santa on Christmas Eve.

Before then though he wants to give a big wave and goodbye to Imogen and Archer who will be leaving us in December to head off to school. He knows they will have great fun and make many new friends and sends them both a very big hug.

Tatty wishes everyone a fun filled Christmas and looks forward to sharing more adventures with everyone in 2017.

Preschool 345 Survey

Thank you to those who have returned surveys -

You still have time to return your survey!

The more we get back the better the picture we will have of your needs and opinions.

If you haven't received a survey either via email or a paper copy then please contact Tina -

manager.preschool345@hotmail.co.uk



Results from the Survey

So far we have had 38% return on our recent survey, over the next term we will be addressing issues raised.

48% of those returned have indicated they would appreciate more flexibility with our start and finish times therefore next term we will trailing 8:30 start. If you would be interested in booking your child into this extra session (Charge per half hour £2.00) please speak to, or contact Tina.

We are currently in negotiations with the Scouts about being in the hall after 3:30, we would need extra time to clear away, however if you know you would like to use a later finish please speak to, or contact Tina at manager.preschool345@hotmail.co.uk

Language tips - Reading books

Throughout your child's early years they are learning critical language and communication skills, by listening to stories your child is reinforcing the basic sounds that form language and also the rhythm of language.

'Pretend reading' - When your child looks through a book babbling and talking about the pictures, this is a very important pre-literacy activity.

"Read it again" - Some children love to look at and listen to the same book over and over again, the repetition and familiarity helps your child learn new words and remember important words and sentences, they will soon be 'pretend reading' you the story.

Have fun
Mandy x

*Mandy is our very own Language Leader.
She regularly attends networking events and courses so she can
keep up to date with the latest research and ideas to help
develop your child's language skills. If you have any worries or
questions please feel free to speak to her or your child's key person.*

Tips from Lindsey

December can be a very exciting time with so many different activities and events happening. Even if you don't actually celebrate Christmas the shops are decorated, more treats on sale everything is lit up. Children can be very excited even if they don't entirely know why! With extra fun there can also be extra buzzing and then extra tiredness, (from the children as well as the grownups).

Sometimes it is good to keep to a routine of some sorts whilst also being 'busy' with Christmas.

Here are a few Christmas type activities to keep your little ones calm and occupied during December which also link to the Early Years Foundation Stage. Although there could be some mess later to clear up but obviously little ones are good at tidying up.

- Making Christmas cards drawing pictures and writing their name.
- Cutting out pictures from a catalogue and gluing them onto a piece of paper to make a Christmas list of what they would like or what they would like to buy for other people.
- Baking which includes lots of mathematics and is also good to eat!

Whatever you are doing throughout the rest of December have a lovely time and get lots of sleep!

Sal's shoes

Is a charity that collects used children's shoes to give them to children around the world who need shoes.

In the new year there will be a box at preschool to collect any shoes you might have so watch out for it!

It's a great way to help others whilst also getting rid of all the used shoes you have!

Cloak room

Unfortunately we don't have much space in our cloak room so we kindly ask that you do not bring a child's rucksack, unless absolutely necessary, as these do take up a lot of room on the coat pegs.

If you do need to bring one please put in on the floor near the office door to the left of the pegs.

We know some families like to bring a change of clothes in case of any accidents, however we find it much easier to use our own rather than search for a child's bag.

Thank you!



Healthy Lunch Times

Here at Preschool we try and make lunch time a social occasion with staff and children sitting together. Staff will often sit with the children to eat their lunch and there's always lots of conversation about what lovely foods everybody has in their lunch boxes, everything from pasta, to wraps, rice dishes to pittas with humous and vegetable sticks to chapatis.

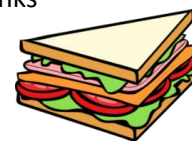
What does a healthy lunch box look like;

- be based on starchy carbohydrates (bread, potatoes, rice, pasta)
- include fresh fruit and vegetables/salad
- include a source of protein such as beans and pulses, eggs, fish, meat, cheese (or dairy alternative)
- include a side dish such as a low-fat and lower-sugar yoghurt (or dairy alternative), tea cake, fruit bread, plain rice/corn cakes, homemade plain popcorn, sugar-free jelly
- include a drink such as water, skimmed or semi-skimmed milk, sugar-free or no-added- sugar drinks



Here's a link to a great website that gives helpful tips of what to put in a healthy lunchbox;

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Lighterlunchboxes.aspx>



We would also ask that you consider how much you put into your child's lunch box, child size portions please, if you put too much in their lunch box with too many choices it can be overwhelming, we would much rather your child ask for more, then we can let you know and you can add small amounts as necessary.

Angela would also like to remind everybody to cut grapes into half as there have been incidents of children under 5 choking on grapes.

Please speak to your child's key person or health visitor if you have any concerns about your child's dietary needs.