



Preschool 345 Newsletter October 2017



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.

PRESCHOOL 345 COMMITTEE



Preschool 345 has charitable status. It is managed and run each day by our experienced staff team. A committee of volunteer parents/carers supports their work and makes key decisions.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Friday 24th November at 10am – please do come along if you can.

At this meeting we will hear different reports about what happens at Preschool, have a chance to meet the current committee and get involved.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved, or to put your name forward for the committee then please speak to Tina or one of the current committee members – we'd love to hear from you!

SNACK TIME

Snack duty is a lovely way to join in with Preschool 345 if you have an hour to spare now and then. Each day, a parent or carer volunteers to wash, chop and serve a healthy snack to the children. Our friendly staff will show you exactly what to do and your help will free them up to work with the children. The sign-up rota is on the information table. Maybe you could consider helping once each half term – or more frequently if you wish! Or volunteer a grandparent...



SOME DIARY DATES

THIS HALF TERM FINISHES – Fri 20th Oct
NEXT HALF TERM STARTS – Mon 30th Oct

AGM – Fri 24th Nov
(See above for more details)

CHRISTMAS FAIR – Sat 9th Dec
(See below for more details)



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



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Preschool 345's Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 9thth December** at **11am – 12.30pm**.

This is a great community event but also raises funds for Preschool. Preschool 345 is a not for profit community organization and the funds raised through this and other events throughout the year are spent on resources and equipment for the children to enjoy.

The fair begins with **festive songs sung by the children** so bring them along bright and early in time to perform!

There will be **stalls, games and crafts** as well as **food and drink** on offer. **Santa** has also promised to make an appearance...

Make sure to bring along as many **family and friends** as you can gather!

We will need **volunteers** to help make the day a success so please help if you can – there are many ways you can help: **donating items** for the raffle or toy stall, giving some time **on the day** to help, or **baking** for the cake stall. There will be a **sign-up sheet** in the foyer of Preschool after half term – please do sign up if you can!



Language Tips

Communication is more than just conversation –

Communication can be verbal (talking to each other) and non-verbal (facial expressions), so when you are talking with your children your facial expressions should reflect your conversation.

Children are great mimics and learn how to communicate by watching adults. When communicating with your children come down to their level both verbally and physically.

Verbally- use age appropriate language that children can easily understand such as 'no throwing your food' as opposed to 'it's not acceptable to throw your food'.

Physically- come down to their level giving eye contact which shows you are interested in what they have to say.

Preschool aged children struggle to sit through long speeches with lots of information, a good rule is to speak to them for no longer than 30 seconds at a time, give them time to answer any questions at least 10 seconds and always mean what you say.

Mandy x

Donations for the Christmas fair

If you have any gifts/prizes that you'd like to donate to the raffle for the Christmas fair then please let us know – you can write them on the sign-up sheet or email a committee member.

If you have any donations of unwanted toys for the toy stall then bring them to preschool on the morning of the fair or the day before.

Order forms for Christmas cards will be coming home with your children shortly.

The cards will be printed with your child's artwork and personalised with their name on the back.



Tatty Ted has had a lovely half term welcoming back his old friends and getting to know our new starters too.

He has loved hearing all about what the children got up to over the Summer and has enjoyed a few adventures himself this term too.

While staying with Betty and Eli, Tatty went on a trip to the fire station.

Tatty loves helping people so this was a great chance for him to see how other people help in the community and learn all about the emergency services.

Betty and Eli and their little sister all had fire fighter helmets to wear and Tatty said they looked very smart!

Tatty then had to keep his little furry body very still while Eli and Betty drew portraits of him. Although Tatty sometimes finds it very hard to sit still he told us it was worth it when he saw the amazing pictures they'd drawn.

Tatty is looking forward to the next half term when we will be doing lots of seasonal crafts including firework pictures, Christmas collages and singing lots of Carols and songs.



Lindsey's behaviour advice - Physical aggression

It is obviously best not to have to deal with a situation involving your child being aggressive in the first place so try to:

- Read stories about unwanted behaviour and discuss the content.
- Give praise and attention when children are playing sociably and well together.
- Puppets can also be used to act out scenarios and what would be a positive way to react e.g. sharing a toy and a negative way e.g. snatching a toy.
- Intervention - look at the reasons for the unwanted behaviour, taking turns with a particular toy perhaps, and try to help by modelling 'good' behaviour before it's escalated into something more traumatic (for everyone!)
- Sometimes another child will just annoy your child for no reason and angry children (and adults) don't always make the best decisions so removing from a situation into a place which makes them feel calmer and eventually happier will be a huge benefit.
- Distraction – “Wow look at that over there” - whatever it is as children are generally interested in everything.
- React calmly
- Say firmly “No”.
- Give lots more attention to the injured child.
- Be consistent.

And remember everyone makes mistakes and we don't always act as we should all the time!

Many thanks to everyone who came to the Family Fun Morning on 30th September!

We all had lots of fun making amazing crafts, seeing great magic and eating yummy cakes.

It was lovely to see many of you there, having a chance to speak to your children's key worker and to get to know each other better.

We hope you all had fun!



Creative Story Telling from Tina

We so love coming back after school holidays (honestly) just to hear all the stories, some actual events, some of pure imagination! Children hearing what others have to say is a great opportunity for them to use their imagination and to use language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences.

I retold a funny incident from my holiday in August - a very cheeky monkey stole my glasses off my face (by the way this is a factual story!). The monkey ran off into a mango forest. Luckily the ranger catapulted some food at the monkey who then dropped my glasses and ran off with his food, although he managed to have a chew on the arms of my glasses. Well, I did get my glasses back so all was well.

I told the children this story and showed them the chewed glasses; this inspired them to imagine experiences telling us all about a funny thing that happened to them. I never knew so many monkeys lived in Beeston who were regularly stealing teddy bears and grandparent's glasses! Not only monkeys, but one child told us all about a crocodile at the shops who stole her baby brother's teddy bear out of his pram - all I can say is BE CAREFUL OUT THERE IN BEESTON!

Recipe corner...Ginger Sponge

Ingredients

200g self raising flour
200g sugar
1-2 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
55g margarine
1 egg, beaten
2 tbsp golden syrup
240ml hot water

*This recipe is really tasty –
either by itself or with
a large dollop of custard
on top! Enjoy!*

Method

1. Line a 28x18cm baking tin with baking parchment.
2. Preheat oven to 180/Gas 4.
3. Mix the flour, sugar, ground ginger, and bicarbonate together in a bowl.
4. Rub in the margarine with your fingers, then add beaten egg, syrup and hot water.
5. Mix everything together well with a wooden spoon
6. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 35-40 minutes.
7. Leave to cool in the tin and cut into squares when cold.