



Preschool 345 Newsletter December 2018



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

Saturday 15thth December
11am – 1pm
At Preschool



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 at the beginning of the fair (11am) in time to perform at **11.15!**

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:

1. **Donating items** for the raffle or good quality books for the book stall
2. Giving some time **on the day** to help
3. **Baking** for the cake stall
4. You will be receiving cups and information on filling them for our '**lucky cup**' stall in the coming weeks too.

There is a **sign-up sheet** in the foyer of Preschool – please do sign up if you can!



Dates for your diary -



Christmas Party!

Weds 19th December

All the children who attend preschool will be invited to come to this free event and get in the festive spirit! Look out for your invitation which should be with you soon.



Last day of term - Fri 21st December

First day of next term – Mon 7th January

Coats and other belongings -

Please can you make sure that you have labelled all of your child's belongings and that you take the correct items home!

Thank you!



Introducing – Lois, the new chair of the preschool committee

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have the pleasure of taking over from Cath Agius as the Chair of the Preschool 345 Committee. We are the Committee that oversee the running of Preschool 345.

As ever, I would like to thank Tina and all of the Preschool staff for making sure that our children are well looked after, have fun and are reaching their full potential as little people.

I have been on the Committee for almost 2 years. Originally, I joined as my eldest little boy Bernie was new to Preschool, I had a bit of time on my hands as I was on maternity leave with my youngest, Peter and thought I might have some skills that the Committee could use. Pre-school is such an important community service that I thought it would be good to contribute to it in a small way. Fast forward to now with two energetic boys and a full time job and I'm still here.

As all of the Committee are volunteers and are or have been parents or carers of children who attend pre-school we hope we have a good idea of the service that preschool should strive to provide but we are always open to fresh ideas along with new members, so get in touch with Tina if you would like to help. We are an eclectic bunch so don't be shy!

Best wishes

Lois Aldred



Tatty Ted

Some of you may already know our friendly Preschool Bear called Tatty. He's a sociable little character who loves nothing more than going home with the children and enjoying spending some special time with them.



In the past the children have been kind enough to take him to bonfire parties, Diwali celebrations, trips to the park, swimming lessons and he has had a great time making cakes and biscuits too.

Over the next few weeks, Tatty will be packing his suitcase once again to embark on more trips home with the children. He said he would love to spend time sharing all the excitement of the build up to the Christmas season and see how different people celebrate. He tells us he is particularly good at helping decorate Christmas trees - but be careful to hide away the chocolate decorations as sometimes Tatty has been known to put more in his furry tummy than on the tree!!

Mandy's Bit - 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.

Some children love to look at and listen to the same book over and over again. Having around 6 favourite books to read at bedtime helps as 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. You could start by stopping on some key words to let your child say them.

'Pretend reading' when your child pages through a book babbling and talking about the pictures is a very important pre-literacy activity.

At the start of the new term in January Preschool will have a library (a box of books in the entrance). Please feel free to choose a book, share it together and bring it back to change it.

Have fun
Mandy x



Dr Tom's top tips -

Dr Tom is one of our preschool daddies and will be offering advice in each of our newsletters.



Flu vaccine

The flu nasal spray is available for all two year olds up to year 5's. Ask your GP surgery for more details if your child has not yet had it.

Threadworms

We have had three instances of children having threadworms, so we asked Doctor Tom what parents should look out for.

Dr Tom says "If your child has an itchy bottom, especially at night, they may have worms. Look out for them in their poo. Go to your pharmacy to speak about getting the simple treatment".



Remembrance Day

Every year the children help put together a Poppy Wreath, which is then laid at the epitaph.

Zakariya, Mason and Nathan did a great job laying the wreath.

We stood quietly for a minute while we thought about all those soldiers who had died.

- Our newsletter is published once every half term
- You should receive an email with a link to the newsletter, some paper copies are also available on the parent/carer information table in Preschool



Behaviour.

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 (there could be some mess later to clear up but obviously we know little ones are good at tidying up!!)

1. Making Christmas cards drawing pictures and writing their name.
2. 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.
3. Baking which includes lots of mathematics and is also good to eat!

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

Recipe corner – Gingerbread reindeer (upside down gingerbread men!)

This dough is very robust and great to make for little ones to enjoy cutting out shapes before baking. Use icing and sweets to decorate...!

Just remember to make sure you all wash hands properly before starting.

For the biscuits

75g light brown soft sugar
2 tablespoons golden syrup
1 tablespoon black treacle
1 tablespoon water
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 teaspoons ground ginger
95g butter/hard margarine
½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
225g plain flour sifted, plus a little more (if needed)

Method

1. Put the sugar, syrup, treacle, water and spices together in a large saucepan then bring them to boiling point, stirring all the time.
2. Now remove the pan from the heat and stir in the butter (cut into lumps) and the bicarbonate of soda.
3. Next stir in the flour gradually until you have a smooth manageable dough – add a little more flour if you think it needs it. Now leave the dough covered in a cool place to become firm (approximately 30 minutes).
4. Pre-heat the oven to 180°C, gas mark 4.
5. Now roll the dough out to 3mm thick on a lightly floured surface and cut out the gingerbread men. Arrange them on the baking sheets and bake for 10–15 minutes until the biscuits feel firm when lightly pressed with a fingertip.
6. Leave them to cool on the baking sheet for a few minutes before transferring them to a wire cooling rack.
7. To decorate, use the icing to make them look like reindeer....!
8. Store in an airtight container.

To decorate

Writing icing
Sweets like smarties

