



# Newsletter

## April 2019



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 point you towards someone who can.

### Easter Event – 6<sup>th</sup> April

11-12 at Preschool

Come along for fun including crafts, egg hunt and tombola!

The children will be singing during the event - bring them along to take part.

There will be refreshments and cakes to buy.

If you would like to provide cakes or tombola prizes then bring them to Preschool by Friday.

The committee hope to see you there!

Free entry – proceeds from cakes, refreshments and tombola will go to preschool.



### SOME DIARY DATES

**LAST DAY OF TERM – Fri 5th April**

**SUMMER TERM STARTS – Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

**BANK HOLIDAY – Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May  
(preschool closed)**

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY –  
Mon 27<sup>th</sup> May to Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May**



**Letting us know when your child is going to be absent from Preschool**

When a child is absent due to illness, holiday etc, we ask that you notify Preschool at your earliest convenience by telephone: 0781 637 6726, text, or email: [manager.preschool345@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:manager.preschool345@hotmail.co.uk)

**Children who are absent without Notifying Preschool**

If a child is absent from Preschool without notification for more than 24 hours, the manager will attempt to make contact to ascertain a reason for their absence.

- 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/carer information table



## **The Story of Preschool 345**

### **A community of not-for-profit child care and education.**

Preschool 345 was set up in the 1970s by a group of parents to provide community based childcare. The original Preschool was run from a church hall and enjoyed many happy years there. Sadly the hall was destroyed by fire on 5th November 2004. As you can imagine it was a terrible time but, with the help of the committee and staff, new premises were found very quickly. A local school and neighbouring settings lent us some equipment and Ofsted even rushed through an inspection of the new premises in the hall of the Methodist Church on Queens Road. We were up and running within two weeks!

This site was a little too far out from the centre of Beeston to be user friendly for our families but all was not lost, as the 6<sup>th</sup> Beeston Scouts were in the process of having a lovely new building built for free! As part of their planning stipulations the building was to be used for community groups and not just the scouts so we immediately approached the committee and applied to rent the building from them during the day for Preschool. We have since gone from strength to strength. The building is ideal, centrally located and, as we are a nonprofit making organization, the scouts charge reasonable rent.

We have been in our current setting at the Scout Headquarters on Middle Street since 2006, continuing our original aims of supporting families in Beeston.

### **Community owned not-for-profit preschools.**

When families get in touch with us they are amazed at our fees, just £10.40 for a 3 hour session (April 2019). They ask "How come you're so cheap?".

In answer, primarily the difference is we are community owned (not-for-profit) rather than commercial owned (for-profit).

Community owned education and care services are "owned" by parent committees, community groups or not-for-profit organisations, rather than by individuals. They are operated as social enterprises, delivering high quality care and education with the purpose of delivering public infrastructure for the long term. They are run on a not-for-profit, break-even basis by voluntary parent committees of management. Any operating surplus is directed back to the service. There are no owners, directors or shareholders requiring a financial return on an investment. These services foster children's development, support their families and help build a community.

### **The committee**

The committee is an important and essential part of the life of the playgroup and is made up of parents who wish to contribute to the running of preschool. The activities of the committee fall into two broad categories; the management of, and fundraising for, the preschool.

#### *Management*

The committee meet about once every 6 weeks with the supervisor and administrator to review and make decisions about matters concerning the preschool, such as staffing, health and safety, budgeting, purchasing of new equipment, special events etc.

#### *Fundraising*

Preschools receive very little public funding. We rely on fundraising to provide all the wonderful activities. Fund raising is necessary to provide essentials for the preschool and those extras, such as the Christmas Party, Rockabillies and new equipment. Without this money we could not maintain the high standards parents have come to expect.

Because a child's time at preschool is short, each year the committee needs to recruit new members to assist with these tasks. It can be rewarding to be more involved with your child's preschool, learning more about it and to feel you are contributing to its success.

**If you've got the time, we have a job for you!**

## Your committee needs YOU!

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.

**There are a number of vacancies on the parent/carers committee at present. The committee meets approximately 6 times a year and is a great way to get involved!**

If you would like to join, or find out more about joining the committee, please speak to Tina or one of the current committee members (details available in the preschool foyer).

### Mini Professors

The Mini Professors classes provide an environment in which children can not only explore and marvel at science but they also encourage many life skills, such as asking and answering questions, turn taking, sharing and socialising.

We commissioned a series of six sessions this term the children have carried out all sorts of experiments such as wind, ice, digestion, growing and the ocean.

Here's Sam putting the finishing touches to the ocean scene – we explored the food chain of ocean animals and with the longest tape measure we demonstrated just how **huge** a Whale is.



### Dr Tom's tips

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



### Chicken Pox

If your child has chicken pox they need to stay away from preschool until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually 5 days after the spots first appeared. It usually gets better by itself within a week or so without needing to see a GP. You can give your child paracetamol to help with symptoms plus make sure they have plenty of fluids to keep hydrated. A cool bath may help with the itching or using calamine lotion (available to buy from a pharmacy). If you are worried, contact your GP or call 111 for advice.

### September Sessions

*I know it seems a long way off but I am already looking at places in September, if you could let me know ASAP if your child will be staying with us and if so what sessions you want.*

*You can email me on: [manager.preschool345@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:manager.preschool345@hotmail.co.uk)*

*Many Thanks, Tina 😊*



**HM Government**  
Tax Free Child Care

**Childcare  
Choices**

Do you pay for childcare? Are you a working family (including the self-employed)?  
Do you have a child under 12 (or under 17 if disabled)?

Then you could be entitled to Tax Free Child Care. For every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year

Follow this link:

[https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMItnNbbg42i4QIVyrftCh2fpw8EAAAYASAAEgIeaPD\\_BwE](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMItnNbbg42i4QIVyrftCh2fpw8EAAAYASAAEgIeaPD_BwE) for an easy calculator to see if you qualify, along with lots of information on other schemes to help with child care costs and how to apply for them.

## *Mandy's bit*

### **DROP THE DUMMY**

To develop speech babies and young children need to explore a range of mouth movements e.g. opening and closing the mouth, smiling, sticking their tongue out. Dummies limit these movements. Dummies are good for helping your child to settle at bedtime, using them at other times can cause speech impairment.

Rachel Harrison has written an article for the integrated treatment services

<http://integratedtreatmentservices.co.uk/news/can-dummy-affect-childs-speech-development/> which explores how a child using a dummy regularly, beyond the age of 12 months could be more likely to struggle to develop speech sounds made at the front of the mouth including p, b, t, d and s as the dummy restricts the movement of the tip of the tongue.

Dummies also increase the risk of mouth, stomach and ear infection and dental problems. These are all good reasons to take away your child's dummy during the day when they are interacting with adults and children.

In December we ran a Drop the Dummy campaign, which was a great success -

**Are You Ready To Encourage Your Child To Drop The Dummy?** When we return after the Easter Holidays we will have a posting box for your child's old dummies and some certificates you can give your child when they successfully give them up and post their old dummies in the box ... Good Luck

Mandy xx



## School places

If your child is going to school in September they should receive an offer of a school place by 17<sup>th</sup> April. Can you please remember to let me know where your child will be going so I can arrange transition documents.

Thanks!  
Tina



## Tatty Ted's Travels

Tatty was a very busy bear this term when he went to stay at Frank's house.



Frank looked after him very well by making him a delicious fruit salad for breakfast before taking him to Foresters School where they ate chapatis and found colourful pebbles, blossom and feathers.

Tatty also went to watch Frank at his swimming lesson. Sam was at the pool too and Tatty told the Preschool Ladies how brilliant both boys were at kicking with their legs and pulling with their arms to keep them afloat. Well done boys!

Tatty is looking forward to lots more sleepovers and cuddles from the children next term. What a lucky bear!

## Volunteering at Preschool – Snack time and reading with the children

### *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...



### *READING*

Children love to hear a story being read to them! If you would like to volunteer to read to the children then please speak to Tina or your child's key worker and we'll see what can be arranged.

