



Cowcliffe Pre-School Newsletter

January 2018

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What's New...

Welcome back to the new term, we hope you have all had a restful break and a Happy New Year! We have some new children joining this term and we welcome you too.

Staff News: As someone of you will know Naz left us last term to start a new job, she had a temporary position here and has been offered a permanent job where she used to work. You will still see Naz around as she is staying on as bank staff, she will be at preschool on a Thursday and Friday for the next few weeks.

Picking up at Home time: When picking up your child—if the children are outside, please wait at the gate for a member of staff to bring your child to you. If the children are all inside you are welcome to come and pick them up as normal. This is to stop the gate from opening during the session as we do not want children escaping.



Running out preschool clothes: Please can you return our spare clothes as we are running out of clothes. Can you also provide a spare change of clothes for your children at preschool. Thank you!

Winter is here: Please can you dress your child appropriately for Winter, even when its cold we go outside so children need a coat and suitable footwear. We also advice you to bring your children a hat and gloves as it is getting colder.

What are we learning about preschool:

The children have settled in really well, everyone is making friends and playing together. We are concentrating on speaking and literacy this term. We are doing lots of activities on fairy tales, fantasy stories and phonics. We will be reading lots of stories, making our own stories and carrying on with Jolly Phonics. The sounds we are focusing on this term are: s, a, t, p, i and n. We will be sending activities for you to do at home.

You can support your child at home by reading stories with them, singing lots of nursery rhymes and for the older children looking out for different letters and sounds in the environment. Don't forget to add what you have been doing on Tapestry.

Training:

Staff are continually updating their professional development through courses and networks.

Recent training has included:

First Aid (Level 3): Usha and Pamela

Working Together to Safeguard Children (Level 2): Pamela

Lockdown Training: Sarah

Safeguarding for Managers: Sarah

Dates for your dairy:

Friday 16th February 2018 —Break up for Half Term.

Monday 26th February 2018 — Back to Preschool.

Tuesday 27th March 2018—Parents Evening.

Thursday 29th March 2018 —Break up for Easter.

Monday 16th April 2018- Back to Preschool.

Fee Rates

Our fee rates for 2018 are:

2 Year Olds £4.50 per hour

3 & 4 Year Olds £4.00 per hour

Fees are payable half termly in advance

Opening Times

We now offer:

Breakfast Club: 8.30am—9.00am

Morning Session: 9.00am—12.00noon

Lunch Club: 12.00noon—12.30pm

Afternoon Session: 12.30pm—3.30pm

Afterschool Club: 3.30pm-4.00pm

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who joined in and donated money for the Christmas Jumper day in December. We raised £24.80 and this morning will go towards our fundraising project.

If you would like to help fundraise or have any ideas, please talk to a member of staff.

THANK YOU!!



TAPESTRY
ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL

Please note the new URL for Tapestry: **www.tapestryjournal.com**

Have you accessed your Tapestry account? An app is available for smart phones which makes it easy to access and add observations. Parental involvement is very important to us and your input on your child's development is essential.

Leaflets are available with instructions on how to use the app are available in the entrance.

Don't forget to upload a photo of your child doing something they enjoy.

For our new parents, you will need to activate your account, please look out in your e-mails for a link to do it. If you have any problems, please come and talk to Sarah and she will be able to help you!

The refurbishment project

In September we announced plans for the much needed refurbishment of our preschool building, so that we can continue to provide excellent care for your children in a suitable and safe environment.

Project update

The plans for the extension and refurbishment have been drawn up and approved by the committee and we are now working through the process of getting planning permission. For more details on the project, watch out for a display in the preschool foyer.



Fundraising update

In November, we were delighted to receive a donation of £3,000 from the D C R Allen Charitable Trust and along with over £500 from Miriam for taking part in the Great North Run, this gives us a good start, but we still have a long way to go, so please consider helping. There are many ways that you can help us to raise the total, here are a few ideas:

Join our Wall of Thanks

You can help by making a donation, any amount is appreciated and it's so easy, just leave your donation with Preschool Manager, Sarah or make a donation online through JustGiving, here's the link to our page <https://www.justgiving.com/cowcliffe-preschool>



We'll add the name of everyone who donates to our **Wall of Thanks**.

Get sponsored

Get motivated this New Year by setting yourself a running challenge and getting sponsored. You could do a 5k, a 10k or even train for a half marathon, it's your choice and you'll reap the benefits of feeling fitter and healthier. Check out websites like this one www.runbritain.com to find a challenge and choose and enter a race, then set up your JustGiving page here <https://www.justgiving.com/cowcliffe-preschool> and get training. Remember to ask all your friends and family to sponsor you.

Nominate us

Lots of businesses run fundraising schemes and give to charities. Find out what your place of work does and nominate us to join the scheme or put us forward to benefit next time awards are made.

If there's a complicated application process for an award run by your company, don't worry, our fundraiser, Denise, can help with that, just get in touch.

We'll continue to keep you updated through our regular newsletters and there will be a display on the wall in the foyer, as well as the Wall of Thanks to let you know how the project and the fundraising are progressing.

Eggs for Sale

£1.25 per 1/2 dozen.



Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

This year we are planning to spend the pupil premium money on opportunities for children to develop their knowledge across the EYFS. At the moment we have spent in on:

A new fire engine and dolls house to support children's relationships and understanding the world. So for the children have loved playing with them both and we have got some amazing observations (look out for them on tapestry).

We welcome your feedback

We aim to be a preschool that constantly reflects on practice.

If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas please speak to a member of staff.

Alternatively please add your comments in the comment box in the entrance hall. **Thank you.**



Committee Matters

Parents in Action, We need YOU!

We are a charitable pre-school run by a voluntary committee of parents and people from the local community. Our AGM meeting was held in October 2017.

The Committee members are:

Fiona Clarke (Chair), Anne- Laurie Hepp (Vice-Chair) Miriam Caldecott (Treasurer), Charlotte Turner (Secretary), Ashy Rafiq and Sarah Thornton.

We hope to recruit new members all throughout the year.