



# Shurdington Pre-School

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to all of the new members of our Pre-School family and welcome back to our existing little ones. We hope you had a fabulous half term break and are so looking forward to the term ahead which sees the change in seasons from Autumn through Winter to Christmas - we have an exciting **Term 2** ahead planned for you all and cant wait to share it with you.

As ever, the first half term was set aside for helping all of the children to settle into new routines and, in particular, for helping all our new children find their feet. Once we had gotten to know our new children, we allocated **KEY PERSONS** and you will all, by now, know who your child's Key Person is going forward. If you would like to have a chat about how your little one is doing, your Key Person will always make time for you when you are in on rota but you are always welcome to request an extra chat if you need to.

Just by way of a reminder, our hours are **8:30am to 2:45pm every day, aside from Tuesdays which are 8:30am to 1:00pm**. Please ensure your child is dropped off in setting **by 9:15am at the latest** as, otherwise, it can be disruptive for the other children and staff, particularly if they have planned something special for the morning.

A huge thank you to you all for your prompt pick up of children which, again, is greatly appreciated.

## AGM AND PARENTS EVENING

Thank you to all those parents who attended the Parents Evening and AGM last term. We hope you found it as useful as we did and as informative as you had hoped. We had a record turnout with 39 parents in setting for the evening which is very much appreciated by the Staff Team and the Committee so thank you all for making the effort.

Further Parents Evenings are planned for **Term 3 (Butterflies)** and **Term 4 (Caterpillars)** as set out below:

### **BUTTERFLY PARENTS**

**School Readiness Parents Information Evening:**  
**Monday 27 January 2020 - 7:15pm-8:45pm**

### **CATERPILLAR PARENTS**

**Parents Evening:**  
**Thursday 26 March 2020 at 7:00pm**

## **THIS TERM, YOUR CHILD WILL NEED:**

Please send your children in with sufficient warm clothing – **beanies, gloves, scarves, spare jumpers and coats** as Winter really is here.

**All items, including bag, coats and shoes, MUST BE NAMED CLEARLY** to avoid any confusion or loss and to make it easier for us to locate items that go missing. Thank You xx

### **N.B. PLEASE DON'T SEND IN**

- **WELLIES** - we have plenty to go around
- **SPECIAL TOYS FROM HOME** – as these may get damaged or lost. We cannot take responsibility for looking after them.

## **LUNCHBOXES:**

We pride ourselves on our **Healthy Eating Policy** and we ask that lunchboxes be made with this in mind.

Children are encouraged to eat savoury foods first (e.g. Sandwich/wraps/bagel/rice cakes/crackers) followed by any fruit/veggies and then, in turn by cheese/yoghurt and then pepperami/satay sticks/jelly, etc. Should you wish to include a less healthy treat (crisps/biscuit/snack bar) please limit this to **ONE** small portion only and this can be eaten when healthy options have been eaten. We will only allow the children to eat one of these type of treats so please only send one in. If you send in, say, three, then this makes it really awkward for us and is unfair on the children. Please, please, absolutely **NO solid chocolate bars** at all. Thank you.

### **Please ensure that:**

- **any food that may be a choking hazard i.e. grapes/ olives must be cut in half.**
- **if your child will need a teaspoon, you pack one, as we do not have many spares; and**



If you would like some inspiration for lunchbox ideas please speak to any one of our healthy Team or see the Noticeboard.

## STUDENTS:

As part of our reflective practice and CPD (Continuing Professional Development) we often open our doors to students who not only gain something from spending time in our lovely setting but also bring their own knowledge and freshness to our practice. This year we continue to be supported by **Hannah Addison** who is also a member of our Relief Staff and is a great addition to our team.

## FEES AND FUNDING:

Funding can be complicated if you are new to the system so, it goes without saying that, should you need any help or advice in this regard, you should speak to Tess Engelbrecht (Play Leader) or Nicola Jasper (Administrator) both of whom will be happy to help.

However, the basics are that, for hours that are not covered by Achieving 2 Year Old Funding or Free for 3&4 Funding, our hourly rate is £4.50 per hour. Invoices are generated in the first week of each half term and are due within 14 days. Invoices will be given to you in person by Tess Engelbrecht or Kelly Clifford both of whom keep a signed record of invoices that have gone out to parents.

We are a charity and so rely on prompt payment so please ensure that you make payments timely. No invoice should ever remain outstanding in the term following the term in which the original invoice was sent out.

If your child is entitled to the 15 hours then these will show on your invoice as having been deducted so you are not liable for them.

If you work 16 hours or more and your child is over 3 then you may be entitled to 30 hours funding. Please note that it is up to you to find out whether you are entitled to the funding as this is not something we are able to do.

Once you have enquired and (if you are entitled) received a 30 Hour Code, we need to have this in order to claim your funding on your behalf. Again, this will show as a deduction from your invoice. Snack charges will be added to invoices in the usual way.

## AMENDING SESSIONS:

Please note that if you wish to amend your child's sessions you will need to use the Change of Session Form (copies located in the Entrance Hall) **giving us one term's notice**. Please note that it is our policy to follow up any unexplained absences so we will call if your child is not in.

## AMENDING CONTACT DETAILS

This is a reminder that if there are any changes to any of your personal details or circumstances, you are obligated to inform us in writing of any new details as soon as you are able to do so. Thanks for your help with this.

## CURRENT SESSIONAL AVAILABILITY:

We still have **several BUTTERFLY spaces** available over the week and **one CATERPILLAR** place available on a Tuesday. We do have several new starters in line to join Pre-School from January 2020 so numbers are looking good although we would love to fill all our spaces if possible. With this in mind, we ask all parents to spread the Pre-School name amongst friends and family in a bid to help us to fill Pre-School. If any parents have any links with Marketing companies or possess any expertise in this area, we would welcome help and advice on marketing Pre-School as effectively as we can in order to start to fill our spaces for September 2020. Please bear in mind that if you would like to increase your hours either now or after Christmas (or for Butterflies, if you are planning on increasing sessions to include the School Transition Fridays), please do give us enough notice to ensure there is availability for you.

Just by way of reminder, Fridays are dedicated Butterfly sessions for children who will be starting school in September 2020 and these involve an exciting programme of relevant and varied activities for our Pre-Schoolers. **If you know of any Butterfly aged children (in their final year of Pre-School) who might like to join our Pre-School family, please do let them know our availability.**

## TERMLY TOPIC

### CATERPILLARS:

#### **"Dear Zoo"**

In CATERPILLARS, we will be story making with Dear Zoo over the next few weeks and looking at this topic alongside the EYFS.

As ever, there will be a lot of messy and creative play in Caterpillars as this is what we love best! We will also be talking about our pets, exploring feelings around animals and descriptive language around animals too. We will be looking at shapes and sizes, early measurement and comparison as well as engaging in small world play, role play and dice games. We will also be thinking about how to look after animals both domestic and in the world around us and are hoping to visit the local farm.

Please do keep in mind, when dressing your little ones for Pre-School, that they will get messy and mucky so please do send them in in old clothes that you don't mind them getting dirty.

### BUTTERFLIES:

#### **"The Little Red Hen"**

This term we will be continuing with our storymaking of The Little Red Hen. As our Butterflies are now very familiar with this story we will be sequencing, getting the children to re-tell the story and making and playing games with character puppets.

We will be making harvest wheat playdough and focussing on our pencil control and cutting skills as well as completing Maze sheets. We will be doing an outdoor treasure hunt around the story as well as playing ordering games, matching and counting games and missing number games.

We will also be engaging in Farm Shop Role play and small world play and thinking about how to look after animals both domestic and in the world around us. Alongside this we are hoping to visit the local farm to see all their animals too.

# WELCOME DONATIONS TO PRE-SCHOOL

If you have any good condition second hand toys you are getting rid of or hear about, we would very much welcome the following:

- Dressing up - People who help us (Police, Fireman, Nurse, Doctor, Pilot, etc)
- Dolls Clothes - our dolls are naked and with Winter coming it would be good to get them dressed warmly!
- Any Fire Fighters toys, role play toys
- Dinky cars (we are looking for a large garage too)
- Dolls House, people and furniture
- Farm animals
- Small world people
- Happyland - any community people or buildings
- Tea sets (hardwearing!!)
- Zoo Animals



As ever, if you are shopping for stationery/craft items for yourselves and something is on offer we are always grateful for any donations of paper, envelopes, sellotape, glue sticks, glitter, sequins (especially with Christmas coming up), paintbrushes, sponges, etc.

Thanks in advance for any contributions. New resources are a great way of keeping our setting fresh for the children xx

## A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- ✚ RUBY-ROSE AND HER FAMILY WHO HAVE VERY KINDLY DONATED TO US 30 SUPER FABRIC APRONS FOR COOKING.
- ✚ EVALYN WHO HAS VERY KINDLY DONATED HER WOODEN KITCHEN AND ROLE PLAY EQUIPMENT TO PRE-SCHOOL. THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TOYS WITH US.
- ✚ RUBY AND HER FAMILY WHO HAVE GIVEN US SOME LOVELY SECOND HAND CLOTHES TO USE AS SPARES FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN AS NEEDED.
- ✚ NATALIE, LEWIS AND LAUREN WHO HAVE ALL VERY KINDLY AGREED TO JOIN OUR PRE-SCHOOL COMMITTEE DONATING THEIR PRECIOUS TIME TO PRE-SCHOOL
- ✚ ZARA FOR DONATING TWO DOLLIES TO PRE-SCHOOL.

**THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY  
XX**

## PARENT ROTA

Thank you to all those lovely parents who have already done their Parent Rota duties.

As you know from the recent email, we have reverted back to the old format of preparing the Parent Rota and you will all have been allocated a space or two which you will need to attend. We have taken this decision as there were so many parents not carrying out their duties and we thank you for working with us to make this system work well.

Please ensure that you have your Rota Session Dates in your diaries and that you attend your session. If you are unable to attend due to your child being ill, don't worry – we will allocate you a new slot so you don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to be part of your child's early years adventures in Pre-School.

As you know, Parent Rota includes, among other things, sticking photos in your child's journey book, chatting to your child's key person about your child's Pre-School journey, helping prepare for and clean up after snack/lunch and engaging in craft/play activities. Whilst we appreciate that Parent Rota Duty takes time out of your day, the staff and children all look forward to seeing you.

Siblings are welcome to come along too and join in the fun. If you are unable to attend your session, we are always happy to welcome any special family member/friend who is happy to take your place.

In addition, to minimize disruption to sessions for the staff and the children if anyone is unable to attend their session, we wish to hold an emergency standby list of volunteers who can help out at short notice. Please let us know if you are happy to go on this list.

Thanks again to you all for your continued support xx



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### Friday 15 November 2019 - Children in Need

This week Friday we are very happy for children to dress in spots or any Children in Need/other Fancy Dress. We will be holding a cake sale where the children can choose their own cake to have after lunch so please send your child in with a £1 donation for fancy dress as well as 50p for the cake sale. If your child does not have fancy dress please don't worry - we will have our dressing up out too. Thanks.

### Friday 15 November 2019

Stories with Susan will be taking place at 10am on Friday during which the children will be read stories about appreciating what we have, particularly in line with Children in Need.

### Monday 25 November 2019 - INDIVIDUAL & SIBLING PHOTOS with Freedom Photography. N.B.

The photo sessions are open to all Pre-School children whether they are in Pre-School that day or not so please put the date in your diaries and bring your little ones along. The photos make a precious keepsake and lovely Christmas gifts so this is one not to miss. For children with siblings not yet in Pre-School, if you would like photos with both of your children then we will ensure that your photos are done earlier in the morning.



### Mid November:

Preparations begin for Friday Butterflies to plan a very special Christmas play. Butterfly children not currently attending on a Friday who would like to be involved, please see Dot.

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019: 10:30am

We have been invited by the local Merry and Bright group of seniors to attend their Christmas Coffee Morning in the Link Room to sing them some carols and this will take place on 3 December. All of our little ones are very much looking forward to showing off their beautiful singing voices.



### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December: 11am

Christingle Service at St Paul's Church. Children to be dropped at Pre-School as usual where they will each make their own Christingles before we walk over to the Church for a Christingle service with Susan our lovely vicar.

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019: 2pm

Butterfly children have been invited by Shurdington School to watch the **Apple Class Christmas Celebration** which will last approximately 20 minutes. We will walk the Butterfly children to school for the performance at 2pm and we ask that parents collect their children early on that day at 2:30 from the Shurdington School Reception Area.



### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December: 11am:

Butterfly children perform their **Christmas Miracle** for parents. Parents to arrive at 12:35pm for a **12:45pm start**. Tea and cake will be available afterwards

and Pre-School will finish early at 2pm.

**Please remember your pennies for the cake sale after the Nativity.**



### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019: 5pm - 6:30pm WINTER ONESIELAND DISCO



We are hosting a Winter Onesieland Disco open to any children under 13 who would like to come. Cost is £3.50 per child to include a gift from Santas grotto. To reserve a space please either let us know or reserve a space on the event on our Facebook page. Lights, music, games, face paints, food and a magical Santa's Grotto. Babes in arms are free and there is no charge for adults.



### Wednesday 18th December 2019:

#### LAST DAY OF TERM 2

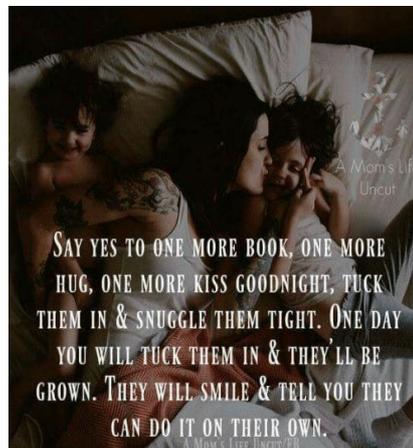
We will be holding our own Christmas Party during the afternoon session before sending our children off for a happy Christmas holiday.



### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020:

#### TERM 3 STARTS @ 8.30AM

We are so looking forward to this messy, sparkly, festive, cake infused term and sharing all these occasions with the children, their families and friends. Many thanks for your continued support. Your commitment goes a long way to making our Pre-School so special. Thank you!



**YOUR OUTSTANDING  
PRE-SCHOOL TEAM**