

Newsletter September 2020

Welcome to the autumn term at pre-school

This is a different start to the new school year, however it is still an exciting term as we welcome new children and families to preschool and support them as they settle in, and welcome back children and families as they reacquaint themselves with preschool now they are the 'older group'.

Thank you all for working with us to make our preschool as safe as we can, we do appreciate your actions in maintaining a social distance at drop off and collection time. The children are responding very positively to being dropped off at the gate, indeed they seem more confident about entering preschool.

During our sessions we frequently wash our hands, and we are encouraging the children to use tissues for noses! The staff spend a lot of time at the end of each session cleaning resources and equipment. We are also rotating resources that are difficult to wash yet offer great learning opportunities for the children.

Just a couple of reminders!

Belongings

Please help us and your child look after their belongings by labelling everything; coats, lunch boxes, bags etc.

We spend time outside everyday and so weather appropriate clothing and footwear for your child means they can play outside comfortably.

Snack fruit

Thank you for the portions of fruit you bring that can be shared by the children at snack time. Snack time is a social time when children chat together, chop up fruit, count pieces and use all their senses to enjoy their snack.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

This is the framework within which pre-school supports the learning and development and welfare of each of the children who attend, further information about this framework is available in pre-school or you can access and other information about early education and childcare it via the Department of Education website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

Partnership with parents is crucial in supporting children's development, at pre-school we aim to share your child's key worker folder with you regularly, we have a 'parents week' when we will share your child's folder with you and discuss their progress, we will organise these with you after the half term to find a convenient time to meet. We also value the information you provide about your child's experiences at home etc. particularly your child's successes - we

love to share those proud moments! If you have any concerns about your child's development and experiences at pre-school please discuss them with us.

Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Learning and development is supported for the children in pre-school through planned and purposeful play in a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. Planning for the sessions starts with the children; we observe them in the pre-school and look forward to hearing from you of their interests and favourite activities at home.

Starting school - September 2021.

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/apply-to-start-school/>

If your child will be aged 4 by September 2021 and is due to start school, you should apply online via the link above. Applications need to be submitted by 15th January 2021; confirmation of places will be given in early April 2020. If you wish to discuss school places at Kingsbury Episcopi Primary school, please call the office on 01460 240507.

Pre-school committee

As you are aware the pre-school is managed by a parent led committee. Parental involvement is vital for the continued success of the pre-school all parents are welcomed and encouraged to join the committee, involvement can be very satisfying, is a great way to meet other parents and share your skills - IT, organisation, management, teamwork and cake making! Details of the Annual General Meeting and how we plan to hold this meeting this year in light of coronavirus restrictions to follow shortly, all parents are invited to be involved in this meeting so that we can communicate how the preschool is organised and keep all parents up to date. We can do much of our communication via emails, online video meetings as well as at drop off and collection time, so please do get involved!

Diary dates	
Half term	26 th to 30 th October
2.11.20	Return to pre-school
w/c 9.11.20	Parents week - more details to follow
18.12.20	Last day of autumn term.
5.1.21	Return to preschool (INSET day 4.1.21)