

St Helen's Pre-School

Registered charity no: 1031937



Newsletter November/December 2010

Winter

Parents are reminded that the ethos of St Helen's Pre-school is that children should be able to enjoy and learn from the outdoor environment in all seasons. We are also required, by the terms of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, to offer free flow access indoors and outdoors throughout most of the session. If we do not offer the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum we will not be able to take the Nursery Education Grant. Being winter the weather is likely to be cold and children need to be adequately dressed. Tights or leggings under trousers and a warm sweatshirt or jumper under the pre-school fleece are good starting points. Children also need shoes that will keep their feet warm – they are welcome to bring warm slippers to wear indoors.

Pre-school Committee-Treasurer

As you know the pre-school is run by a voluntary committee made up of parents. Unfortunately our treasurer has had to stand down from the committee and we now urgently need someone to take on this role. A financial background is not needed, anyone with approximately three hours a week to spare should be able to fulfil the role and there will be lots of help and support available from previous treasurers and other members of the committee. If you feel that this is a position that you could be interested in please speak to a member of the committee or to Tricia before the end of term.

Message from the committee

You may have noticed the arrival of a new red post box for the preschool!

It will be kept on the table by the door and is intended for all post for the committee. This includes all invoice payments, expenses claims, new ideas and feedback.

When posting payments, please use the provided receipt book and complete as instructed. Rip out the largest section for your own record of what, when and why you have posted something in the box. The smaller stub remains in the book for the committee records. Please put your child's name on the back of cheques and on envelopes containing cash.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this, it is intended to make things clearer for everyone.

Pre-school sessions now begin at 9a.m and end at 12 noon. If your child is booked in to attend lunch clubs on Wednesdays and Fridays collection time is 12.45p.m. For children staying all day on Monday collection time is 3.15p.m. Late collection is very upsetting for a child and also incurs an extra charge.

Any parents wishing to book additional sessions for January onwards should put their request in writing to Tricia as soon as possible.

In Service Days

Tuesday January 4th will be an in-service day with pre-school closed to children.

Please note that this will be the last time that pre-school will close for school in-service days.

The last day of this term will be Friday 17th December; next term will begin on Wednesday 5th January.

Children's Christmas Party

This will take place on Friday 17th December during the morning session, all registered pre-school children are welcome to attend and there will be no charge for the session.

There will be no lunch club on this day.

Crisps, chocolate and sweets are not permitted at pre-school. These do occasionally still appear in children's lunch boxes and it can be quite upsetting for the child when they are not allowed to eat these. Parents are encouraged not to send in sugary drinks e.g. fruit shoots, squash etc. drinking water is always available. All children now drink from cups at lunch time.

Parents are reminded of the need to inform pre-school, in writing, of any allergies etc.

WOW Stars

Children love to bring WOW stars from home to share their achievements with their friends. We read these out to the group and then the children stick them into their books. Stars are available on the table in the entrance hall.

St Helen's Pre-school Fundraising Web Shop

The web shop works on commission and allows you to buy from a huge list of retailers, including Amazon, M&S and John Lewis, the more people who use it, the more money we will raise for pre-school. www.buy.at/sthelenspreschool

If you have any questions about how to use the Web Shop please email sthelenspreschool@googlemail.com

Nursery Education Grant Funding

In the September to December term of each year there is one week that is not funded by the Nursery Education Grant and parents have been billed for that week. We now need to find out if parents wish this to continue or if they feel that it would be better to have a two week half term break in October, meaning that grant funded children would not have to pay for any extra sessions during the year.

Please complete the attached reply slip to let us know which you would prefer.

Nursery Education Grant Funding

I/we would prefer pre-school to close for two weeks over the October half term.

I/we would prefer pre-school to remain open for the week not funded by the Nursery Education Grant, I/we understand that this week would then be invoiced at the same rate as the Grant is paid (currently £10.50 per session)

Name of Child

Signature

Pre-school Clothing

If you would like to order further garments please complete the attached order -form and give to Yvonne, with a cheque, made payable to St Helen's preschool.

All one size (3-4yrs)

Child's name:	Quantity	Total
Polo shirt	£7.50	
Sweatshirt	£10.50	
Padded fleece	£19.50	
Total made payable to 'St Helen's Preschool'		