

Blewbury Pre-School

Church Rd, Blewbury, OX11 9PY

Tel: 01235 851786

Email: preschool@blewburypreschool.co.uk



Newsletter - Term 1 2021

Welcome to our new term - we hope you have had a lovely summer holiday and are now ready for an exciting and interesting time this term.

We are delighted to welcome some new children to our group this term - xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, xxx, and we wish them and their families a very happy time here with us.

Invitation

Please come along on Tuesday 7th September to our special get together from 4.00 - 5.30pm. This is an opportunity for all our families to come along for tea/coffee/squash and biscuits and meet new friends, get to know one another and the staff in an informal way. The Headteacher from Blewbury Primary School will also be there to have a chat and answer any questions you may have to help you plan for your child's next steps. There will be lots of toys available for your child to play with as you relax and chat to other parents with children at Pre-School.

Safety Measures for Covid this term

We will continue to ask you to wait outside Pre-School and we will welcome and encourage each child to come into the building independently and ensure that they wash their hands, change their shoes and get ready to play. If you do need to enter the building to help your child settle, we would prefer you to wear a mask when you enter the building.

Please continue to practice social distancing and encourage your child to use the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach with coughing and nose-wiping at home. We will also continue to clean surfaces and resources regularly. Thank you for helping with these arrangements.

Re-decoration of Pre-School

We have had our building completely re-decorated during the summer holiday, including the front door and are now awaiting a new sign for this. We have put up a temporary welcome sign! We hope you will be able to have a proper look around during our open afternoon on Tuesday 7th September. It is a lot cleaner and brighter as the previous paintwork had been done during our lottery refurbishment back in 1998!

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Our theme for this term

The theme for Term 1 and Term 2 is **Food and Farming** and our curriculum is planned to promote each child's learning through a range of varied activities following the areas of learning which are Communication and Language; Personal, Social and Emotional development; Physical development; Knowledge of the world; Mathematics; Expressive Art and Design; and Literacy.

This is what your child will be looking at each week:-

Week 1: Tractors and Mud. We will also be celebrating the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashanah.

Week 2: Harvest and the traditional celebration of Harvest Festival.

Week 3: Animals and their babies.

Week 4: Bees and Butterflies

Week 5: Food grown and produced locally

Week 6: Baking Week with local produce

Week 7: Autumn

Further on in the Newsletter there is some information about changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Show and Tell

Our Show and tell time is back after Covid! This lovely, gentle group time provides children with an opportunity to share something that is important to them from home, learn new language, develop their language skills and encourage their confidence in talking to their friends in a group.

The rota for SHOW AND TELL is attached to this Newsletter. Please check this and make sure your child has chosen something to bring in and show their friends on their turn, but remember to clearly display your child's name, so that we can make sure this comes back to you at the end of the day!

It is always helpful if the item relates to the WEEKLY THEME, as this provides a further opportunity to reinforce the learning, however we do welcome any item that the children wish to bring and share.

Outdoor Curriculum and Cold Weather

We encourage all children to be outside during the Autumn for the many opportunities available in the outdoor curriculum. We recognise that children all learn in different ways, with some children preferring the indoor space and some children using the outdoor area in all weathers. Our Outdoor Curriculum is available throughout the free play section of the session, and is designed so that children can develop their learning and continue to extend this, using their own interests alongside a skilled and experienced Early Year's Practitioner. Please remember that children will need a warm and waterproof coat and wellies (all named please).

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Keeping your child Safe

We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of all the children here, and all our staff and volunteers share this commitment.

To do this, we undertake rigorous checks on all our staff, committee members and volunteers who help here and maintain a record of these checks. Staff and Committee members involved in recruitment are trained in Safer Recruitment. Tracey Edwards, Playleader, is our Designated Safeguarding Lead and is the first point of contact for all concerns around safeguarding and child protection. Our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Sharon Phillips. Both members of staff have attended Specialist safeguarding training. All other members of staff have undertaken Generalist safeguarding training. As part of our role to safeguard children in Blewbury Pre-School, please be aware that we have a duty to share information with other agencies where there are concerns about the safety or well being of a child. An overview of our Safeguarding Policy is available on the website or in paper form at Pre-School.

Please talk to Mrs Edwards or Mrs Phillips if you have any concerns about a child's welfare at Pre-School or out of Pre-School. Our telephone number is 01235 851786. You may also talk to anyone at the Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 050 7666.

You are all invited to our

Annual Meeting at Blewbury Pre-School

Thursday 7th October from 8.00 - 8.30pm



Wine and Nibbles served 7.30pm

Did you know that parents actually help to run our Pre-School on the Management Committee?

We would love you to come and spend a hour with us finding out how we run our Pre-School, what we did last year and what our aims are for this year.

All are welcome

If you have any old cameras, real weighing scales and calculators that you have spare, please can you consider donating them to us? Using real objects, not coloured toys, are really beneficial for children's play.

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New Early Years' Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework was revised and updated by the Department for Education, and becomes statutory from **1st September 2021**. This applies to all providers of Early Years' education in England (Childminders, Nurseries, Pre-Schools and Primary Schools)

The key aims of the reforms are to improve child outcomes at age 5, particularly in early language and literacy, especially for disadvantaged children; and reduce unnecessary paperwork, so that Practitioners can spend more time interacting with children in their care.

The key areas of the reforms are:

- ❖ Revised educational programmes and early learning goals, including a clear focus on early language development and a greater emphasis on self-care and being healthy.
- ❖ Changes to the EYFS profile assessment requirements at the end of reception year, including removal of the 'exceeding' criteria and statutory local authority moderation;
- ❖ Changes in the safeguarding and welfare section of the EYFS, promoting children's oral health and other small changes in that section, including to support prevention of choking in settings

Finally, we wish you all a very happy and enjoyable term. Please do have a chat with us if you have any queries, or wish to discuss any concerns about your child. We look forward to welcoming you all here.

Best wishes

Mrs Edwards, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Cheswick

Thank You to our hard working Committee

The Pre-School is run by a group of parents' who help the staff to provide the wonderful Pre-School that we have, in areas such as health and safety, maintaining the building and utilities, dealing with lease queries and so on. The lease holder of our actual building is **The Malthus Trust**, an educational charity which provides grants for young people and the Schools in Blewbury. We are very grateful to The Malthus Trust for their ongoing support with repairs and essential maintenance.

Thank you to the parents on the Management Committee for this year, 2020/21:-

Chair - Ciara Hardman-Cole
Treasurer - Phil Weeden
Secretary - Kate Wright
H& S/Lottery - Pip Weeden
Fund Raising - Chris Smith
General Help - Tiffany Sherrington Hall

Ciara and Phil are stepping down this year, now that their children have moved on to Primary School, so please talk to a member of staff or Kate (Sam's Mum), who has a child currently at Pre-School, to find out more.

Come and join us and use your knowledge, experience, talents and skills to help your child through their early years here. All help is really appreciated by the staff.

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