

Blewbury Pre-School

Church Rd, Blewbury, OX11 9PY

Tel: 01235 851786

Email: preschool@blewburypreschool.co.uk



Newsletter for Term 2 2022

Welcome back to Term 2 - there are lots of exciting events coming up to celebrate Christmas and you can also find information about how you can get more involved at Pre-School in this Newsletter and also how you can help to promote your child's learning at home along the themes for this term.

Welcome to Hector

We are delighted to welcome Hector and his family who joined us at the beginning of October, and we wish Hector a very happy time here with us.

Committee News

Hector's Mum and Dad, Georgina and Angus, have kindly volunteered to be on our Management Committee, along with Laura and Alain Ritchie (Florence's Mum and Dad) and we are very grateful to both families.

It is not too late to join the Committee if you would like to help us this year. Please speak to a member of staff for more information. Read on for more information about the Committee later in the Newsletter

Our theme for this term

We are excited to be planning activities around the theme of 'You, Me and Everyone' and of course, Christmas. 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: Touch / Bonfire Night

Week 2: When I grow up / Remembrance Day / Children In Need

Week 3: My Body

Week 4: My Favourite Things / Thanksgiving

Week 5: Celebrating Christmas and St Andrew's Day

Week 6: Celebrating Christmas

Week 7: Celebrating Christmas

Ideas for you to promote your child's learning at home are:

- Talk about all the people in your family and put them in order of tallest and smallest.
- See if your child can name a range of body parts
- Have a chat with your child about how people help us - at the shops, in a library, in the Doctors' etc.
- Bake some cookies and let your child knead and roll the dough and make their own shapes - give the shapes names - triangle, circle, square.
- Have a trip to the Library in Didcot together and choose some books about these topics.
- Look at the Christmas songs and sing them together with your child to help them become familiar with the words
- Go on a sensory walk, crunch the leaves, smell the air, find conkers, acorns, pine cones and feel the textures. Suggest some new language (prickly, smooth, knobbly, rough, etc). Count what you find.
- Make a bird feeder and think about habitats and hibernation.

Let us know what else you do, and share your ideas with us. It's great to work together on your child's learning journey.

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SHOW AND TELL ROTA

Show and Tell will continue in Term 2. This is going very well and provides a lovely opportunity for children to practice their skills in sharing and talking about something special of interest for them with the group. It is especially important in developing a child's language, being able to ask questions to clarify their knowledge, practice sentence structure and learn new vocabulary. 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.



Children In Need - During Week 2, your child can come dressed as their favourite character any day during the week and donate £1.00 for children in need. We will have a collection pot and stickers at the door.

Flu - Winter Illness

We know that some of you have already taken advantage of the flu jab for your child, but we would like to suggest that anyone who has not arranged an appointment should now take up this opportunity. This year it is more important than ever for children to get their flu vaccination, especially those aged two and three. Flu can be serious for young children and they can also spread it further increasing the risk to those who are frail or vulnerable and at risk of serious complications if they caught the flu. The flu vaccination for children is a nasal spray that is quick and painless and all you need to do is book an appointment with your local GP practice for your child to receive it. Please may we also remind you not to send your child into Pre-School, if they have a cough, bad cold or a temperature. If your child needs Calpol in the morning, they are not well enough to come to Pre-School. Thank you for your help and consideration with this.

For Parents of Children going to School in September 2023

Parents of children, who will be going to School in September 2023, need to apply for a school place by the closing date which is 15th January 2023. Applications open online on 1st November 2022. It is important to apply by the closing date as applying on time is likely to maximise the chance of your children being offered a place at one of their preferred schools. Please make your application on line at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. If you are not familiar with the schools that you are considering, we encourage you to make arrangements to visit the school so that you can be sure this is where you would like your child to attend. There are planned open morning and evenings at Blewbury Primary School on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 10th November 2022, 9.30am-10.30am and Tuesday 8th November 2022, 5.00 pm - 6.00pm, for all parents' who are interested in looking around Blewbury School. Your child's Key Person is happy to help you with any questions you may have about the school application process. You will hear of your child's school place on 17th April 2023.

Student from Didcot Girls School for Work Experience

We are delighted that Sophie Southwell-Sander will be joining us for a few days during the first week of term to gain work experience during her studies at Didcot Girls' School. We last saw Sophie when she was a former pupil here and so it will be lovely to welcome her back again. Sophie will work under the supervision of the staff during the few days that she is here with us. We are sure you will make her feel welcome.

Photographer at Pre-School on Tuesday 8th November

We are delighted to welcome back Michelle Hill (a professional photographer who is a former parent) who will be in Pre-School from **8.30 - 10.00am on Tuesday 8th November**, to take photos of your child/family groups. The photos will make lovely Christmas presents for your family and will have a range of options and prices, with all the profits going towards our fund raising. If you would like your Primary School siblings to be included in the family group, please come along at 8.30am. If your child does not come to a Tuesday session, please do pop in between 9 - 10am so that they can be included in this lovely opportunity. (There is no obligation to buy your child's photograph.)

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Pre-School Management Committee

Thank you to those who attended our recent AGM where we had a very interesting summary of events given by our Chair, and an up-to-date financial report given by our Treasurer, plus enjoyed wine and nibbles. We are delighted that we now have a number of parents who are keen to establish a new Committee for this coming year 2022/2023. If you have any questions or any ideas for fund-raising events, please talk to a Committee member or member of staff. Remember FUND-RAISING is essential for the continued running of our Pre-School. The new Committee is:-

Alain Ritchie (Florence's Dad)	- Treasurer
Angus Lesmoir-Gordon (Hector's Dad)) - Secretary
Georgina Lesmoir-Gordon (Hector's Mum))
Laura Ritchie (Florence's Mum)	- Health and Safety
Pip Weeden (Gwen's Mum)	- Lottery
Tiffany Sherrington Hall (Zander's Mum)	- Fund-Raising and General Support
Chris Smith (Kitty's Dad)	- Fund-Raising and General Support

Ann Parham (Olivia's Grandma) has very kindly offered to help us with general support as a Committee friend. If there are any other parents who would like to help us by either coming onto the Committee or being a 'friend' to join us at fund raising events, please let a member of staff know. Our first Committee meeting is Thursday 17th November, when we will also nominate a Chair of the Committee.

Thank you to our Committee members for all their help in 2021/2022



We are so very grateful to Phil Weeden who has stepped down after being our Treasurer for five years, Shannon Whiting who was our Health and Safety Officer last year, Kate Wright, our Secretary and Pip Weeden who was our Chair last year. Pip will stay on the Committee to continue running the administration of our Lottery.



CHRISTMAS PLAY

Our Christmas Play will be on Friday 9th December at 12.00noon and you are all warmly invited to come along and watch your stars perform. All the children will be involved in dressing up and singing a number of festive nursery rhymes and songs, following which there will be a fund raising raffle and refreshments. Please save the date and we will send our further reminders nearer the date. All the songs that we shall be singing our attached to this Newsletter. We would be very grateful if you could sing these along with your child so that they become familiar with the words.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



**You're
invited..**

Please save the date for the Christmas Party which will be on **Thursday 15th from 10.00am - 2.00pm**. We have a very special visitor booked to arrive with a present for all the children, and there will be party food, entertainment and lots of fun! An invitation will follow and there will be a small cost to cover the party food and present. This includes **every child** even if they do not normally attend a Tuesday session.

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Increase in Fees

Sadly, it will be necessary to increase our fees from January to reflect the additional costs of our utilities. This means that from **1st January 2023**, our hourly fees will increase from £5.50 to £6.50 per hour, which will be reflected in the invoices.

CHRISTMAS PLAY AT BLEWBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have been invited to watch the Christmas Play of Key Stage 1 on **Tuesday 13th December at 10.00am**. We would be delighted to go along and see our former friends in their play, however, we will need to have some parents to help us accompany the children on a short walk from Pre-School to the Primary School. If you are able to help us walk over, from 9.45am until approx 11.00am, please let Mrs Edwards or Mrs Phillips know.

Parent Help back at Pre-School

Before the pandemic, we were always very grateful for parents who came into the session and helped us with art and craft activities, tidying up, helping to prepare and clear away at snack time and generally being a pair of hands to help out during the morning. We have really missed getting to work with parents in this way and we are delighted that we can now invite you in again to help out.

There is a Parent Help Rota in the Cloak Room and if you would like to help on any morning please do put your name up for the date and session that you would like to come in. We know that you are all busy, so it may be that you would prefer to come in for just a short time from 10.30 - 11.30am, this is also very helpful. You do not need to stay for the extended hours even if your child is here, so the full morning will be from 9.00am - 12.00 noon.

If you have a particular skill or a favourite activity that you would like to share with the children, please do let us know so that we can incorporate this into the session.

We wish you a really happy term and if you wish to discuss any matter about your child with your Key Person, please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment to have a chat with us.

With best wishes

Mrs Edwards, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Cheswick