



Newsletter for Spring 2021

Tuesday, 5th January to Friday 26th March 2021

Half Term - Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break, and are keeping safe and well. We would like to extend a warm welcome to those new children and parents/carers who are joining us. Listed below are some regular administrative matters for next term which we would like to draw to your attention. A list of important term dates and weekly themes will be sent to you under separate cover. If you have not already done so, could you please bring in a 15 x 10 cm family photograph for our 'families' wall display.

Alternatively, please e-mail this to Louisa Edwards at info@datchworthpre-school.co.uk and we can print it out for you at Pre-school.

In line with our planning, we will email to you our form entitled '**Planning for your Child's Interests**', which we will incorporate into the planning for this half term. Paper copies will be available on request. A weekly Parents sheet linking our theme to the areas of development will be both e-mailed to you over the preceding weekend and placed on our notice board at the beginning of each week.

Just a reminder that, in line with the Government's Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, we use the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics system for children to learn their alphabet, which is also used by All Saints Datchworth Primary school. If you are not sure of the phonetic sound of each letter, please ask a member of staff who will be pleased to help you.

I will also be emailing a **'Home Achievements'** sheet on which you can enter any achievements your child may have accomplished at home and then return to Pre-school. Again, a paper copy can be available on request. Your key person will discuss this with your child and then talk to the other children about it. This will ultimately be placed in their learning journal. Please feel free to complete and print additional copies of this form when you would like to send in any further achievements during the term.

As you may be aware, your child's key person completes a Unique Child Summary sheet at the end of each term, which summarises their learning areas and indicates their 'next steps'. This is also placed in your child's learning journal. These were introduced with the revision of the Government's Early Years Foundation Stage in 2012, and the Government ask that we obtain a signature from parents to complete this form.

Administrative Matters

1. If you are new to us, just to confirm that the main front door will be closed until 9 a.m. with 'socially distanced' yellow line markers placed at the bottom of the step and along the front of the village hall for parents to wait at with their child to avoid congregating of groups of parents at the front door. Please note that EXIT is then down the slope. Hand sanitiser is placed on the small blue table for you and your child to use prior to entering the village hall and a cloakroom trolley is at the side of the front door for your child's coat and lunch box.

2. Please prepare your child to leave you at the front door where a member of staff will take your child's temperature and then show them through to the Pre-school room where a further member of staff will assist your child in washing their hands. Your child will then self-register by finding their photograph and placing it in the Pre-school post box (this photograph will be taken on their first day at Pre-school).
3. **Can I please ask you to ensure all your child's Pre-school clothing is clearly named, particularly coats, hats and lunch boxes and that shoes are appropriate for climbing, running etc.** Please also ensure they have a fleece/coat with them if necessary as we shall be going outside every day.
4. Under the current circumstances, we ask that **only the Squirrels** group bring in changing bags containing nappies, nappy sacks and wipes and that these are left at Pre-school for the duration of the week. Although we are not able to encourage comforters/soft toys, we understand that it may be necessary for Squirrels/new children to bring one in for the first couple of weeks to support transition.
5. Pre-school supply and prepare all healthy eating snacks. We also provide milk and water at snack time, with water available for your child to drink continually throughout the morning.



6. Please remember if your child is feeling unwell, or has a temperature, **do not bring them in to Pre-school.** Could we also

ask you to inform us on your arrival at Pre-school if your child has been given any medication (including Calpol for any other reasons), or if your child has any new injuries sustained outside pre-school. We also require you to complete a form for any ongoing medication your child is required to take. The law dictates that we must fill in the necessary forms!!

7. If your child stays for lunch club, could we please ask you to label all containers, cups etc., as we seem to build up a little collection of them! Also please do not include large plastic bags or anything sharp in the lunchboxes. A copy of our lunch guidelines will be emailed to you and a copy of this will also be on the notice board just inside the Pre-school door but, to summarise, **no chocolate or sweets** should be put in your child's lunch box, as the Pre-school promotes healthy eating.
8. Staff will be sitting with children at lunch time and any chocolates or sweets will be returned in their lunch box for them to eat under your supervision. Only water as a drink please, as we are trying to encourage healthy eating and prepare the children for school. As you will appreciate, it can cause problems when you have a large group of children!
9. Also no nuts of any kind please, as we do have children and staff with allergies, which you will appreciate can be life threatening. Please do not include chicken in your child's lunch box.
10. If your child is staying all day please also ensure that their packed lunch contains some kind of carbohydrates to give them plenty of energy for the afternoon!
11. Just a reminder that the Pre-school telephone number is 01438 814310. Louisa can usually be reached at home on 01438 812992.

12. Also an important reminder that if somebody other than yourself is collecting your child, could you either introduce this person to us in advance, or arrange a password with us for that person to bring with them and supply a photograph if possible. In line with our Safeguarding procedures, under no circumstances can we let a child go with another person unless we have prior authorisation from you to do so. This is for your child's safety. (For your information both Gillian and I are designated safeguarding officers and all other staff are fully trained in safeguarding).



Note from Stephanie Bryce (Chairperson)

"A big hello and welcome. As you may know we are a charity registered Pre-School with a parent run committee. We are always looking for new parents to join us. There are many ways you can contribute to the committee and you can choose to give as much or as little of your time you can spare. We meet up once every half term and discuss lots of exciting things. It's a great way to get involved, meet new people and find out more about what the Pre-School does. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie on 07723 013582 or stephanielfbryce@gmail.com."

Many thanks,
Pam Hill - Pre-school Leader