

Melmerby Play & Preschool **Newsletter - September 2009**

Welcome

Welcome to all our new starters, Isabel, Lily, Maddie, Issy, George, Hugh, Will, and Freddie. We hope you are going to enjoy your time with us at Pre-school.

And welcome to all our new parents also, all the children are settling in very well, but if any parent has any concerns or questions then please come and speak to Alison. If anybody has not had a copy of this terms planning, then please let Alison know, and she will provide you with a copy.

Welcome back to all of our parents and children from last year, and we hope you all had enjoyable summer holidays.

Reminder

Could all parents please remember to label coats, bags, and uniform jumpers and t-shirts, as this helps us to unite each child and their belongings.

As always if any parent has a job/interest/hobby they would like to share with the children at Pre-school then please let Alison know. If you have any relevant information, ideas, resources that you would like to share with the children related to any of our topics then please also let us know.

With this in mind, thank you to all the parents who have been sending in baby photos, this week, the children have shared these with us at register time, and have thoroughly enjoyed doing this, we have all been trying to guess who each baby is, some have been easier to recognise than others!

If any parent changes their mobile phone number please remember to let us know, as these can be used to contact you if there is a problem with your child during session.

If you need to contact Pre-school in session time the numbers are 01765 640769, or Alison's mobile 07759 885398, or out of hours you can ring or text Alison's mobile, or can ring Alison at home on 01765 640805.

Outdoor Funding

The £3000 grant we were given by the Government in May to improve our Outdoor Provision has now been spent. If parents would like to see how the children are using the resources we have bought, then photos are in the scrapbook for 2009/10 which is in the hall. The resources we purchased have included investigation resources eg binoculars, magnifying glasses, and bug pots, a periscope, children's tape measures, a jumbo magnet; movement resources eg scarves, ribbons, wrist bells, hoops, balls, beanbags, large tunnels, stepping stones; construction resources eg large wooden blocks, soft play shapes, water channelling stands and guttering; water play resources; mesh and ribbons for weaving; childrens' brooms; rainbow wings; large mats to sit on; and another gazebo to shelter us from the weather.

We have also purchased waterproof coats and trousers for each child, and a number of pairs of wellies, so that we can access the outdoors whatever the weather.

Fundraising Event

In 2007 we were awarded a grant from the York and North Yorkshire Community Foundation (YNYCF) of £3,600 which paid for some outdoor equipment including the tricycles, and the container, and many of our trolleys to allow us to store things more easily. As a thank you for this we have been asked if we would hold a fundraising event for the YNYCF, with 50% of the money raised going to their funds and 50% going to Pre-school funds. With this in mind we have decided that on Friday 23rd October we will be holding a Fancy Dress Party with a Halloween theme, with fun, games and dancing etc, we suggest a donation of £1 for entrance to the party, and we would like to have a cake stall (so we will be looking for donations for this nearer the time).

At the end of June we had a Curry and Quiz night at the Lamb Inn, Rainton, where we enjoyed good food and a good time. This event raised £142.00, and we thank all who supported this, as we said in the June Newsletter we will be using this to provide more music resources for the children to enjoy.

Uniform

We have some new uniform for sale (jumpers and t-shirts), and also some second hand uniform for sale. Please see Alison if you are interested in purchasing any uniform for your child.

School Admissions

For those parents who have children starting Reception Classes at Primary School next September, please make sure you have registered with your chosen school over the next couple of months, they will then send you a Common Application Form to be either returned to School or to North Yorkshire County Council this must be done by December, and you will be notified in April 2010 where your child has been allocated a place.

Help needed

In the event of staff illness/absence we have a relief member of staff who covers sessions for us, but in the event of her not being available either, we have a Contingency List of parents who would be willing to come in and help for a session and be an extra pair of hands, and an extra pair of eyes, this is an important role as it allows Pre-school to stay open, without this help we would not meet our ratios, and we would have to close for the session. If anybody does feel able to put their name on the list for any sessions please see Alison. You would only be asked to help at a session that your child attends.

We have recently purchased two new cardboard screens, unfortunately as always they come in plain white, and we need to decorate them ourselves to make them look more attractive and interesting for the children. One of the screens is currently being decorated by a parent from last year, however, we still need a volunteer to decorate our other screen, if you would be interested, please talk to Alison.

Book Week

The first week of October is National Book Week so we thought that throughout October, if children would like to bring in their favourite story book from home, we will try and read one each day at story time.

Term Dates for 2009/10

1st Half Autumn Term

Monday 7th September until Friday 23rd October 2009

2nd Half Autumn Term

Monday 2nd November until Friday 18th December 2009

1st Half Spring Term

Monday 4th January until Friday 12th February 2010

2nd Half Spring Term

Monday 22nd February until Thursday 1st April 2010

1st Half Summer Term

Monday 19th April until Friday 28th May 2010
Please note we will closed on Monday 3rd May 2010.

2nd Half Summer Term

Monday 7th June until Friday 23rd July 2010