

Little Otters News



Happy New Year & Welcome back

Until Friday we were all delighted that despite the bad weather and the closure of many other schools and pre-schools in the area with great determination and true British grit Little Otters had managed to remain open and make the most of the snow by having activities such as snowman building, ice dancing and snowball throwing.



The children (and some of the adults!!!) all loved this rare opportunity to enjoy the arctic conditions sadly the freezing weather got the better of the pipes on Friday and as we had no running water there was no option but to

close. The village hall is working hard to arrive at a solution to the problem and hopefully next week should see no more disruption.

This half term the learning will continue to be led by the children with adult initiated activities that tie in with the topic of the moment. There will be a balance of child led, adult initiated and adult led activities throughout the half term and we hope to get in a bit of cooking and continue with group number games and story telling and reading on a daily basis. If you have ideas for activities that would interest your child please do let us know. Just before Christmas a sheet was sent out about your child's interests - please return this to us ASAP to help our planning. Many thanks



Sadly our Open Day planned for 9th January had to be postponed due to the weather and frozen pipes in the village hall. Please look out for advertising with the new date and encourage any friends with pre-school children to come along for a morning of fun.

As mentioned above this term our planning will be lead by the interests of your children. Please do use your partnership books (to be found in your partnership bag) to let us know of your child's latest likes, dislikes or interests. The details will be used to plan activities that stimulate and generate the skills for your child's development and to follow The Early Years Foundation Stage guidelines. Each child learns better in an environment in which they are interested/stimulated rather than one in which development is forced. The observations we make of the play may change the plans, for instance if the children are taking an activity in a different direction the plans will change accordingly. We are focusing on the children and their needs. Detailed plans will be displayed weekly and notification of outings and visitors will be sent separately. As always your thoughts and feedback are welcomed.



Dates for your diary.....

30th January Fundraising Mamma Mia night - do come along for an evening of fun and music whilst supporting a really good cause - THE PRE-SCHOOL.

END OF THIS HALF TERM IS FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY
RETURNING Monday 22nd February.

IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ONLY ONE ITEM OF SHOW & TELL IS BROUGHT IN DAILY.

PLEASE, PLEASE HELP

The parent/carer rota for this half term will be displayed on the notice board as of Monday 11th January. Please do put your name down to help. As well as being very rewarding it does offer you the opportunity to see what we do to challenge and stimulate your children in a fun learning environment.



Did you know that each child in the pre-school has a 'key person' responsible for recording observations of progress and suggesting ideas to help development? At the end of the Autumn & Summer term you will receive a progress report written by your child's key person, if you have not already met your child's key person do seek her out and have a chat. Please do let us know of any concerns that will affect your child at pre-school as you drop off or by way of your partnership book. If you would like to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you have about the pre-school it is helpful if you could make an appointment so that we can ensure the right person is free to spend time with you.



If your child is not well he/she should not come to pre-school. Please do not send any child who has been sick, has a temperature, a disturbed night or had an upset stomach to pre-school for 48 hours. If your child has a tendency to sickness or diarrhoea please do let Michelle know. For more details see our policy in the spotty dog folder.



Book sharing – Our small library at pre-school contains a wide selection of books, on a large number of topics. They are intended for the pre-school age range but each child is very different in their likes and dislikes and in their understanding. As your child self selects their book, please do take a moment to take a quick look before sharing it so that you are not surprised or unprepared for the content. If you feel a certain book is unsuitable for your child let us know and we will try to guide away from it.

We are fortunate in that the local travelling Library Service has started to visit the pre-school on alternate Tuesdays. We are encouraging the children to visit the van and to select a book, the choice will be noted in your partnership book together with the return date. Little Otters who do

not attend pre-school on Tuesdays are also very welcome to visit the library bus at 10.00 alternate Tuesdays commencing 12th January (Weather permitting)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY :-Spring & summer 2010 & Academic year 10/11

Spring Term 2010 -Tuesday 5th January - Thursday 1st April

Half term - Monday 15th- Friday 19th February

Summer Term Monday 19th April - Friday 16th July

Half term - Monday 31st May- Friday 4th June

Autumn 2010 Monday 6th September - Friday 17th December

Half term 25th - 29th October

Spring 2011 - Wed 5th January - Friday 8th April

Half term 21st - 25th February

Summer 2011 Tuesday 26th April - Friday 22nd July

Half term 30th May - 3rd June



As a result of the bad weather the deadline for primary school applications has been extended until the 25th January.

If your child was born between 1st September 2005 and 31st August 2006 it is time for you to decide which primary school you would like him/her to go to. For a place in September 2010 or January 2011 applications must be submitted between 1st November 2009 and 15th January 2010. You can do this on line at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline.



Our lovely Little Otters play wear is available from the pre-school (order form from Michelle). Hooded sweatshirts £9, T shirts £5 and caps £3 they are a great quality and wash well, they also stop your child's clothes getting mucky at pre-school. We do our best with aprons and wipes but when they are having fun and learning at the same time we don't want to interrupt to get them to cover up.



Each half term you will find attached to this news letter an invoice. This requests payment for all unfunded sessions and for all regular lunch clubs and any additional or taster lunch clubs from the previous term. Please make cheques payable to Little Otters Pre-school and place cash in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and the invoiced amount. It is helpful if invoices could be settled as soon as possible (cheques payable to Little Otters). If you would like to know about flexible payment plans or more information about obtaining funding please do talk to Fran. (01395 568732)



Topics this half term

In line with the **Early Years Foundation Stage** which runs from 0-5, we plan activities for each half term period which aim to cover the following areas of the E.Y.F.S during the whole term. These are a guideline to help us meet your child's individual needs. As we are funded for all children after the term in which their third birthday falls. OFSTED inspect us to ensure we follow the EYFS. From now on we will also consider ages 0 - 3 in our planning to recognise the difference in maturity of all our children. Importance of play is paramount as all children learn through play and it is these areas on which your termly progress report is based. As we have more details of how the EYFS. is being updated we will of course let you know. You may notice that some of the areas of learning listed below have slightly amended headings. This is in line with the changes in the EYFS. Any of the staff would be happy to talk to you about the Foundation Curriculum if you would like more details.

Personal, Social & Emotional development

Dispositions and attitudes.

Self care and a sense of Community..

Communication Language & Literacy -

Language for thinking.

Reading.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World -

Design and making, ICT.

Physical development-

Health and bodily awareness.

Movement and space.

Problem Solving, Reasoning & Numeracy-

Shape, space and measure..

Calculating.

Creative development –

Being creative & Developing imagination.

Little Otters has recently registered as a recipient for Easy Fundraising. This is something you can support if you do any shopping on line. By logging on through this web site www.easyfundraising.org.uk and doing your usual shop (many retailers available) a commission payment will be made to the pre-school. Please do take a look - what could be EASIER!!!



Please help us by not sending in nuts in your child's lunch box (this includes peanut butter) as we have a child with a nut allergy. Thank you.



Little Otters has many policies that inform parents of the way in which various matters will be dealt with in the pre-school. These are reviewed on an ongoing basis in line with legislation and local need. All our policies are available for you on the table in the foyer at the village hall. When a significant amendment is made to a policy we do try to inform parents as briefly and concisely as possible rather than sending lots of paper home for you to read.

Our Health and Safety Policy has had some changes made for details please see copy in the file in the lobby.

Most parents are horrified if they find a head lice in their child's hair. Unfortunately however it does happen - do not despair our 'Head lice' booklet found in the foyer at Little Otters advises of the best way to treat and get rid of the horrid little beasts.



This half term we hope to introduce some different and exciting tastes to the snack café including fruit juices, berries and spreads. Please do let us know of any allergies as soon as possible.

You may be interested to



learn that our Vicar Janice Cackett visits once a month to read a story to the children. They really seem to enjoy this and listen fantastically.



A BIG THANK YOU

Little Otters is a charity and relies on the fund raising enthusiasm of our committee and parents to top up the money we receive from the government by way of grants. Last half term fabulous Daniel Neaves Party Hair Night raised an incredible £700 and the wonderful people from the HSBC gave us an extra £500 under their match funding scheme. The generous folk at the Rolle Arms also donated £140 to the pre-school following their Christmas sing along with the Budleigh Male Voice Choir. These additional funds make a huge difference to our business and the quality of care we can give your child in terms of resources and equipment. Please do try to support our fundraising events, on behalf of the children we really appreciate it and you may just have FUN. If you work for a **community conscious employer** that has a scheme where by if an employee helps with fundraising in the community they will contribute/or match to boost the money raised please do let me know. Obviously you would need to help but any addition to the money we raise would really be appreciated. Please do let us know if you or your employer could help.

This half term on 30th January we are holding a Mamma Mia sing along evening. Please come along to what promises to be a fun night. Bring along your own drink, dress up in Mamma Mia theme if you so wish, join in the raffle which will support the pre-school and sing and dance the night away (admission £5) Doors open 8.00

Attached to this news letter:

- Invoice for this half term

PLEASE NOTE THE PHONE NUMBER AT PRE-

No 25 Spring A 2010

SCHOOL IS 01395 445825

Email enquiries@littletterspreschool.co.uk

