 8th April 2024

**Great Witley Pre-School Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the start of the summer term. We hope you had a great Easter break and look forward to hearing all about it from yourselves and also your children. We have some new children joining us this term and we would like to welcome them and their families to our little Pre School ‘family’

If you came to the Easter Fayre we hope that you enjoyed it. Thanks to the staff and committee members who helped out and also to you all for supporting the Pre School. Of course the stars of the show were the wonderful children who enjoyed putting on their Easter performance for you all.

**Forest School** – please note that there will be no forest school the first Monday that we are back. I need to carry out a full site Risk Assessment plus I think it will be helpful for all the staff to be in the setting to help settle everybody back in. For children attending forest school I will incorporate the forest school fee in with the invoice I send out for your child this term.

**Collection/drop off of children** – As I am sure you are aware the Pre School is now full most days. This does mean that sometimes staff will need to remain in the main hall at drop off/collection times to ensure that ratios are maintained. Can I therefore ask that on these occasions that you come into the hall to collect your child(ren) and speak with their key person. This will greatly help the staff in keeping everybody safe, thank you

**PE Sessions** for our older group of children due to go to School in September will be starting on a Thursday morning this term. If you can send your child in with a pair of shorts, T Shirt and trainers in a separate named bag that would be fantastic – thanks. Please don’t go out and purchase anything specific. The whole purpose of this is so the children practise getting dressed and also being responsible for their own clothing – always a difficult one to grasp.

**Late Collection –** there have been a few instances where parents are late collecting their child(ren) at the allocated time. I appreciate that sometimes these delays are unavoidable but if you are going to be late can you please telephone Pre School to advise us of the situation. On some occasions staff have had to remain over their allocated shift to ensure that ratios are maintained. Whilst I do not want to charge for these late collections I have to be mindful of the additional staffing costs that are being incurred.

**Weather and Suitable Clothing** – We do try to get the children outside each day where possible to meet the requirements of the EYFS. Please can you make sure that your child comes to Pre-School with suitable and named outdoor clothing so that we can do this. Obviously at the time of the year the weather can be variable. There is very little shade outside and whilst we do have a gazebo for some protection there may be days during the summer term when we have to limit children’s exposure to the sun. Please remember to put in sun cream and a sun hat for added protection – thanks.

**Unwell children** – Can I remind that your child should only attend Pre-School if they are well. When they are poorly they really do not want to be here and would much rather be at home, having a cuddle with you. It is also unfair to the other children and staff so to prevent the spread of infection to others can I ask you to keep them at home if they are not well. We do reserve the right to send your child home if they are unwell in line with our Policies and Procedures. We have a staff member who is presently classified as vulnerable so please do help me to keep everybody safe – thanks. There have recently been a couple of occasions where staff have themselves become poorly and have not been able to come into work. Thank you to those parents who have elected to keep their child off from Pre School when their children have colds.

**Planning** – Our topic for this half term is ‘Environments’. However we do take the lead for the daily plans from your children and are continuing with In the Moment Planning. Again we need your help to let us know what your child has been interested or involved in at home. Please share this either with myself or your child’s key person. For this purpose I am attaching an ‘All about me’ form so that you can let us know what your child is interested in or learning at home. Once you have finished looking at your child’s learning journey can I please ask that you return it to Pre School so that your child’s key person can continue to update it. We will also be making our Fathers Day gifts so if your child does not bring something home with them it may well be that they are very busy making their own surprise for the special person in their life.

**Packed Lunches** - we have been noticing that some of the children's lunch boxes have recently been containing treats which are not classified as healthy eg chocolates or sweets. As a setting we promote healthy eating and if you do require any assistance on this aspect please come and have a word with either me or the staff.

The final day of the term is on Friday 19h July and traditionally we have our sports day and leavers service. Further details of this event will follow nearer the time

**Fundraising** - Please also remember to register the Pre School through **Easy fundraising** so that we can raise additional funds when you shop online. The pennies really do mount up and it allows us to provide little extras for the children

On the subject of fundraising Martley Village Hall is holding a fundraising coffee morning for Pre School on Saturday morning of 26th April at 10.30 – noon. Pre School needs to supply some raffle prizes so if you do have anything that you are able to donate that would be fantastic. Thank you. It would also be lovely to see some new faces at the coffee morning so if you would like to come over and have a drink and cake for £4.50 I am sure you will be made to feel most welcome.

I am also planning on holding a tombola of toys on 18th May at the dog show and I am also at the Village Hall for a table top sale on 25th May. If you are having a clear out of toys or household items rather than taking them to the charity shop would you mind bringing them into Pre School, thank you.

**Thursday 2nd May** – please remember that Pre School is closed as the village hall is being used as a polling station. Please make sure that you have made alternative arrangements for the care of your child on that day

**Monday 6th May** – is a bank holiday so once again Pre School is closed

**Photographer** – the photographer is booked for Tuesday 25th June. We try to organise a leaver’s photo for those children leaving us in July to go to ‘big school’ so that you have a lasting momento of their early years friendship group before they start their Primary School education. Hopefully you will shortly be receiving an offer for your child’s School place in September. If you can confirm it to me we can start to work towards a transition that will benefit each child.

I am sure that you will have noticed that our planters are looking a little worse for wear. Before I go and purchase some more plants I was wondering if anybody has any spare plants or herbs that you would like to donate to Pre School. These will need to be safe for children to handle. If you do please drop me a line before I go off shopping. Thank you.

I hope this all makes sense but as ever if you have any queries on any aspect of Pre-School life then please do not hesitate to have a word with me. Thanking you in anticipation of your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mandy & Staff

**Some dates for your diary**

Saturday 26th April – Martley Village Hall Coffee morning to support Pre School 10.30-noon

Thursday 2nd May –Hall closed for voting – Pre School closed

Mayday – 6th May bank holiday (Pre School) closed

Monday 6th May – bank holiday (Pre School) closed

Friday 24th May – break up for half term

Forest School – Monday mornings (older Pre School group)

PE Sessions – Thursdays (older Pre School group)

Photographer - Tuesday 25th June

Term Ends 19th July – sports day and leavers service