***GREAT WITLEY PRE-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER***

1st September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Pre-School after the long summer break. Hopefully you have had an enjoyable summer and we look forward to hearing all about it from your children (and yourselves of course). For those of you who are new to Pre-School we say a big “hello” and welcome you and your child to our Pre School ‘family’.

**SPORTS DAY** - Sadly I was unable to be there but I would just like to say a really big thank you to everybody involved in our final morning last term where the children worked really hard at various sporting events. We also had our leaver’s service for those families who couldn’t make our leavers afternoon tea. The Committee were busy keeping everybody hydrated in the heat and the staff managed to keep the children on track with their various physical challenges. However I think you will agree that the real stars of the show were the children who coped very well in the heat. Thanks to you all for bringing family and friends in to help us celebrate the last morning of the term and for supporting Pre School with the fundraising raffle.

**STAFFING** – I am sorry to say that Abi has now left working for Pre School but we will still see her as her children are attending Pre School which means she is still very much part of our ‘family’. It has been great working with her and I know that we are all going to miss her. We wish her well as she returns to her previous employment. I am pleased to say that we have managed to recruit Rachel H as her replacement. She is a teacher with lots of experience in early years. So if you see a new face at Pre School please do say hi to Rachel and introduce yourself. We welcome Rachel to our ‘family’ too

**SETTLING IN** – As children have been away from Pre School for sometime can I ask that you bring your child into the main play hall once you have put their belongings into the tray and help to settle your child with their key person. This will also give you the opportunity to chat with your child’s key person about what has been happening recently. These few minutes really do help with the settling back in process, thanks. There will be a staff member manning the door who will take your child’s temperature on arrival and offer hand sanitiser.

**POORLY CHILDREN** - Can I also remind you that your child must only come into Pre School when they are fit and well to do so. The lack of staff at the end of last term almost meant that the Pre School nearly had to close. Luckily we were able to limp through to the end of the term but only just. I am sure that you will all help me in ensuring that everybody stays safe and well and that Pre School can continue to remain open. Thank you

***PRE-SCHOOL PLANNING*** - Our topic for this half term is ‘What’s the weather today and seasons’. The good old British weather definitely gives us plenty of variety to learn about changing weather doesn’t it. Aspects of this links into the 7 areas of learning and development set out in the EYFS. However the planning is only an overview of what we will be getting up to. By the staff carrying out observations on your children we can find out their interests or needs and the appropriate resources can be used. **This is also where we need your help.** I am attaching an ‘All about Me’ booklet and if you are able to complete and return it to us as soon as possible it will give us more information about your child’s interests and recent experiences. Children benefit greatly by learning about things they are interested in and we can work together to make this happen. If you are working on something at home please also talk to your child’s key person about any aims/learning that you want us to support your child with eg. learning to tie shoelaces or learning to tell the time

If you still have your child’s learning journey at home which was sent out last term can you please return it to Pre School so that your child’s key person can continue to update this document. Thank you.

For the first few days and weeks we are back at Pre-School we will be allowing the children the option of free choice which helps the settling-in period a little. This will also allow the staff to devote more time to any of the children who may be having a little bit of a wobble. Your child may not bring home evidence of what they have been doing each day but please rest assured that the staff will have been busily engaging with your child – our focus on the earlier days of the children’s return will be on emotional wellbeing. Don’t forget that I will try and post a description of what the children have been up to on Facebook each day and my Friday emails will highlight what will be happening the next week at Pre School.

**UNIFORM** – I have supplies of both new and used uniform which you may wish to consider purchasing for your child, especially if they are due to start school next year as this will get your child used to wearing a uniform. On the subject of School you will need to apply online for your child’s Primary School later this month if he/she is due to start school in September 2026. I will send out further information regarding this nearer to the time.

**BOWENS FIELD** – Please remember that we access the outdoors daily and this includes our weekly walk to Bowens Field. I will try to vary the days that we attend these external trips so that all children get the benefit of visiting this outdoor play space.

**SNACKS** - Pre School supplies healthy snacks for the children to eat at snack time in the mornings. I will be including a contribution for the snacks in with the invoice I will shortly be issuing and sending out for your child. If you do want to opt out of this and provide your own snacks can you please let me know before the weekend so that I can cater accordingly – thank you.

**UPDATED POLICIES** – I recently emailed out a few policies due to changes in the EYFS which has been reissued from today. Regarding packed lunches we recommend the following balanced lunchbox including

Fruit/Vegetables

Starchy food (bread, rice, pasta, potatoes)

Protein (meat, fish, eggs, beans, pulses)

Dairy or alternatives (yoghurt, cheese slices, milk/fortified alternatives)

**Foods we ask families to avoid**:

Sweets, chocolate bars, sugary yoghurts, biscuits

Fizzy or unsweetened drinks

Please can you also ensure that food such as grapes and tomatoes are chopped as they are a choking hazard.

Please remember we are a nut free setting due to allergies

For our **older children** who will be going to school next year we will shortly be starting our 4+ sessions which will be in small key groups of children. We will be increasing these sessions next year to incorporate PE. Once I feel everyone has settled back into Pre-School life then I will start Forest School on a Tuesday morning. Again there are various consent forms relating to this which will be sent out to the relevant parents nearer to the time. Please note that last year the Committee imposed a charge of £5 per session for this additional learning opportunity in view of the increased ratio of staff needed for this type of outdoor learning. This will be included in the Autumn invoice I will shortly be preparing and sending out.

I am also attaching information which discusses school readiness. These are the type of things that we will be working on with your child and hopefully you will be able to continue this learning at home too

We are continuing our weekly phonics letter/sound, number and a specific rule each week which will be explained more fully to the children so they can consider it in more detail. We will also be introducing a word of the day which will be taught through play and fun activities including learning how to sign it using Makaton. Please refer to the weekly Friday email to see what the children are learning each day/week. If possible, can you help your child at home in identifying the relevant weekly letter/number – thank you.

Please remember to let us have any large recycling items you are getting rid of so children can explore open ended play. We have purchased some new wooden and natural resources which will help with this type of play and staff will also be incorporating in the moment planning to facilitate your child’s learning when engaged in play. I look forward to witnessing some amazing imaginary play and new language too.

**BREAKFAST CLUB** – We are continuing our breakfast club from 8am until we open at 9am at a cost of £6.25 for 3 or 4 year olds or £6.75 for 2 year old children. Please remember that places must be booked in advance – thanks. The early drop off charge for 8.30-9. for assisting parents with drop off at School is £3.50

**30 Hours-** Don’t forget that the Pre School is continuing to offer the 30 hours funding and the newly introduced working families funding . If you are accessing these for your child please make sure that you remember to refresh the code when necessary – thanks.

***PRE-SCHOOL AGM*** - Our AGM is due to be held shortly (please watch out for further information from the Committee). For those of you who are interested in serving on the Committee please do come along to the AGM. Alternatively, if you would like a little more information as to what is involved please come and have a word with me. I know that a large number of our current committee members are due to step down this year as they no longer have children at Pre School. Please remember that without a Committee the Pre-School is unable to operate.

***FUNDRAISING EVENTS*** The Pre-School is a non-profit making organisation and we are always looking at different ways to fundraise. Fundraising plays an important part in us being able to offer your child(ren) additional experiences eg external trips and Christmas parties. You can also help us raise funds when shopping online by registering with **Easyfundraising.org.uk** and supporting the Pre-School. Whilst it may only be pennies we raise each time you shop I really can assure you that it all mounts up. We have raised over £900 using this organisation so please do register with this fundraising scheme – thanks.

I have booked the **photographer** for Thursday 6th November and you may wish to consider purchasing photographs of your child - they make ideal Christmas presents at that time of the year. Further details regarding this fundraising event will be sent out to you nearer the time.

Following on from my last newsletter can you please also make sure that you send your child in to Pre School with clothing named/labelled. There have been a few occasions when children's clothing has gone astray. Equally so I try and get all the children outside each day and obviously they need to be suitably dressed for the weather, which as we know is constantly changing. If you could also provide spare shoes/trainers then this allows your child to continue play should their original shoes become wet – thank you.

***COFFEE MORNING*** - I am happy to hold a parent coffee morning each term where we can all come together and discuss any parenting issues or just find out more about Pre School life or general child development. If you would like me to do so please let me know along with your availability days – thank you. In the same way we appreciate how challenging being a parent can be at times so please do come and have a chat with us – I am sure between us all we can make some suggestions which will help and support you with the more challenging times of parenting.

***CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES*** We are hoping to be able to hold our Christmas celebrations on the morning of Thursday 11th December starting at 9.15 and our Christmas party will be on the last morning of the term which is Friday 12th December. If your child does not usually attend on these days they are welcome to come. I know it is a long way off but I know that parents do like to try and join us for the celebration so thought I would give you as much notice as I can

If you have any queries with regard to anything at Pre-School then please do speak to either myself or the staff. We are always happy to help. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards, Mandy and staff.

**REMINDER OF IMPORTANT DATES**

Pre School Resumes Monday 1st September

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October – half term

Photographer – Thursday 6th November 8.30 start

Christmas Celebration – Thursday 11th December morning at 9.15am

Christmas Party – Friday 12th December morning – Pre School breaks up for Christmas holidays