

Newsletter

February 2010

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to our new children and their families. We look forward to getting to know you and making your time with us fun.

The Staff Team

Alison Denton-Brown is now on maternity leave. Her key children have been allocated new key persons and parent's have been informed.

Welcome to Lisa Sims and Lucy Kingsbury to the staff team. Lisa is covering maternity leave for twelve months and Lucy is temporary for the Spring and Summer Terms. Theresa Parsons and Kirsten Turner will also be covering sessions for the Spring and Summer terms as our numbers have grown.

Manager - Heather Clarke

Deputy/Health and Safety Officer – Rita Attwell

Supervisor – Wendy Lewis

Inclusion Officer – Lesley Newcombe

Assistants – Caraline Moore, Sarah Guile, Maria Woods, Lisa Taylor, Sarah Naylor, Vicki Whiting, Judith Michell, Karen Ward, Theresa Parsons, Kirsten Turner and Lucy Kingsbury

Bank Staff – Penny Woolford

Congratulations to Sarah Guile who has just completed her NVQ 3.

Trustees of Southwater Village Hall Pre-School

Chairman – Kate Hall Telephone: 734939

Treasurer – Sarah Ediss Telephone: 731668

Secretary – Lesley Smith Telephone: 732164

Committee

About Us

Did you know that we are the only non profit-making pre-school in Southwater? Also we are registered as an educational charity (registered charity number 1027293.)

We find that this has benefits for the pre-school as it means that we are run for the sole benefit of the children rather than a profit making individual. Any surplus monies made in a school year are ploughed back into the pre-school for the benefit of the children.

The pre-school is managed by a volunteer management committee of parents. They employ the staff team, led and managed by Heather Clarke.

Heather is responsible for the day to day care and education provided for the children. This is overseen by the committee who meet every six weeks to ensure the smooth running of the pre-school, and to discuss and make decisions about finances, fundraising, policies and staffing.

The current committee find their role fun and rewarding.

The AGM to elect new committee members is always held in the Autumn Term.

At our last committee meeting held on 20th January 2010 we had to discuss the recent closures forced upon us by the recent adverse weather conditions. We reviewed our emergency management plans and adopted an Emergency Closure Charging Policy (attached). A letter has been sent home to all parents with guidelines and contact numbers for if we should ever have to close again.

Thank you to all parents for your understanding during the closures. If you have requested sessions to make up your missed sessions Heather will let you know shortly when these will be. However you will see from the policy that in future pre-school does not schedule any make up days.

Thank You

Change to Registration

Please see the attached letter on coloured paper titled 'Important Information'.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2010

Monday 4th January – Thursday 1st April
(HALF TERM 15th February – 19th February)

Summer Term 2010

Monday 19th April – Friday 16th July
(HALF TERM 31st May – 4th June)
Monday 3rd May – CLOSED Bank Holiday

Autumn Term 2010

Monday 6th September – Friday 10th December
(HALF TERM 25th -29th October)
Monday 13th December – CHRISTMAS PARTY

Spring Term 2011

Tuesday 3rd January – Friday 8th April
(HALF TERM 21st -25th February)

The Christmas Party

Thank you to all committee who assisted at the Christmas Party, and to all parents for generous donations of food. All the children must have gone home full! Special thanks to Father Christmas who at such a busy time still found the time to come and visit us! All the staff would like to thank committee and parents for all their thanks, Christmas cards, generous gifts and kind words.

Illness

Please inform us when your child is absent through illness. If your child goes down with chicken pox please notify pre-school **immediately** as a child attending pre-school at present could become very ill if they come into contact with an infectious child and do not receive medical attention within 72 hours. Please make sure that we are able to contact you should your child be taken ill at pre-school. If any of your contact details, especially mobile numbers have changed then you must inform us immediately.

Themes (for after half term)

'Looking After Ourselves'

Week Beginning:

22nd February – Healthy Eating

1st March – Water

8th March – Recycling

15th March – Bedtime

22nd March – Exercise is Fun

29th March – My Teeth

Parking

As you are aware we are a very busy preschool with lots of cars and children about at drop off and collection times. Children and cars do not mix. Please **DO NOT** Park in the road along the whole of the entrance to the preschool car park or in the car park. This area must be kept clear so that there is a clear view to cross the road. Parents/Carers **must not** remove bollards to gain access to the car park. Please use the overflow car park opposite the cricket club. It may take a few extra minutes to secure siblings in buggies and to walk down from the car park but you do not want to be responsible for a serious accident to a child?

School Uniform

Please speak to a member of staff if you would like to purchase pre-school Tops. The T-shirts are £4 and sweatshirts £8.50.

Extra Sessions

There are a few afternoon sessions in pre-school available after Easter. Please put your request in writing. A letter regarding moving into pre-school plus in September is attached. If your child is due to start plus in September (children due to start big school in September 2011) you will be entitled to 5 funded sessions per week. Currently we offer these as up to 3 in plus and 2 in the preschool sessions, subject to availability.

Parent/Carer Helpers

You are always welcome at preschool but please make sure that your child is settled and confident within preschool before you come into help.

Clothing

Please hang all coats and bags on a peg. Please **do not** leave them on the stage. Please, please make sure that all coats, bags, gloves and hats are clearly named. If your child wears boots to preschool they must bring either a pair of shoes or plimsolls to change in to.

Can you please return any socks, pants and knickers that belong to pre-school if you have any at home? We sometimes have to put these on children when they have a toileting accident but they are not being returned.

Children's Parties

The village hall may be the ideal venue for your child's birthday party. No mess in your home. For further details on hiring the hall please telephone 07757 285634.

Snacks

Please make sure that you send in a piece of fruit, breadsticks or raisins for snack time and if your child will only eat certain fruit then please make sure you send that fruit in. We do not always have favourite fruits available. Thank you

Photographer

The photographer will be here on Thursday 25th February from 9.30am. Children that attend any sessions on a Thursday will automatically have photo taken unless you advise us otherwise. If your child does not attend sessions on a Thursday but you would like photograph taken please speak to a member of staff to book an appointment. Siblings are very welcome. During the day the photographer will also be taking group photographs of the Pre-School Plus groups. Further details will be sent to plus parents.

Haiti Disaster Fund

We would like to help raise some funds for the Haiti Disaster Fund. We will hold a raffle with various prizes including our very own pre-school bear wearing a preschool top! The draw will be on Wednesday 10th February. Tickets will be 50p for 5 tickets.

Fun and Fitness

We've registered to take part in the Haven Fun and Fitness Pre-School Sports Equipment Giveaway. It's a great scheme to provide FREE sports equipment for our children. There's no voucher collection or purchase required – but we do need your support. It's very easy! Please see attached leaflet and follow the instructions to register your support. Thank You

E-mail

southwaterpreschool@hotmail.co

Web site address

www.southwaterpreschool.org

Parents Section

We are looking for sellers and shoppers for our Nearly New Sale on Sunday 21st March 2010 at Southwater Leisure Centre. Doors will open at 10am – 12 noon. Tables are £10 each and you keep the profits. Clear out any unwanted baby and children's clothes, toys and equipment.

For more information contact Claire on 01403 780596 or Claire.golding@gmail.com

Please note that this is **not** raising funds for pre-school.

Heather Clarke

Pre-School Manager

On behalf of The Committee and Staff