

Stonesfield
Pre-School & Daycare
Making the most of each and every moment

Welcome Back to Term 4

We all hope you had a lovely half term break. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't at its best but we hope you all managed to find some fun things to do. Its great hearing the children's stories of what they have been up too, even though during Covid-19 fun days out and visiting friends has been tough for everyone.

This newsletter is going out a little later than usual as we wanted to hear the new guidelines set out by the government regarding schools and whether they were going to allow all year groups to return. As you all know primary schools are able to open from 8th March, with all year groups, so therefore all children can and are returning back to Pre School.

We would like to welcome these children back, they have been greatly missed and thank you for keeping in touch via Tapestry, we have loved reading them and keeping in touch with you.

Can you all join us in welcoming Grace Gleeson to Pre School who will be with us for 3 weeks from Monday 8th March. Grace is in her final year at Gloucester University where she is studying " Early Childhood Studies". Grace has been with us several times over the past few years for various work experience placements and has all the relevant checks. Grace is a great help to the staff and remains very professional at all times.

A Few Polite Reminders

Please remember either side of Pre School is a car park and at times quite busy.

Only use mobile phones outside the Pre School gates.

In red bags please provide changes of clothes and suitable outdoor clothing for all weather play. All children will be returning week commencing 8th March so therefore the cloak room will get quite full, please try not to send in too many or large bags.

Our Covid-19 routine and guidelines

To keep our staff, your child and yourself safe please adhere to the following

- Please ensure social distancing is maintained at ALL times.
- Queue along the side wall of Pre School at drop off and pick up, keeping a safe 2 metres distance.
- Only ONE parent to drop off and preferably the same parent to pick up.
- We now request that parents wear a face mask at both drop off and pick up, our staff outside will also adhere to the same.
- Please use the hand sanitizer provided, children will be required to wash their hands once in the Pre School building.
- Your child is not to attend Pre School if they have cold, temperature, loss of taste or any other COVID 19 symptoms and you are required to advise Pre School.
- Please ensure your child has sufficient wear clothing or layers of clothes as our windows will remain open for ventilation during ALL sessions. We will not be able to provide extra clothing in Pre School at this current time.
- We will be using our outdoor play area as much as possible, therefore your child will need scarf, gloves, wellies and a warm coat at each session they attend.

Snacks and Packed Lunch

Please provide a healthy snack (fruit, veg, crackers, cheese or healthy snack bars) in a labelled box or bag. One for morning snack and one for the afternoon snack if required. This would make it easier for your child to decide what they can eat and when. This is another area where we encourage independence and quite often before we realise they have eaten most of the contents in their lunch box!

Also, please provide a healthy lunch. The children only have little tummies so they only require appropriately sized portions. As a guide line, and this applies to adults as well, a suggested portion is 'your palm size portion of protein (meat, cheese or vegetarian option) Your fist size of carbohydrates, such as bread, potato, rice or pasta, a small Fromage Frais or yoghurt and fruit and vegetables to make up your 7 a day. If you would like any advice on an ideal packed lunch please talk to a member of staff or explore 'Change4life' www.nhs.uk/change4life It has been really helpful in the past, and they sometimes send money off vouchers!

Please remember we have children with food allergies so therefore we are a

Tree nut, Peanut, Pine nut and Sesame free zone.

Only water in water bottles, small cartons of juice are acceptable for lunch time only.

Reflecting on Last term.

We were really fortunate to have had some really lovely dry days and this enabled us to play outside and we began to leave the door open to encourage 'Free Flow' play. This means the children can decide for themselves whether they want to play inside or out. This is another area to encourage independence. We encourage the children to change their own shoes and put on their own coats and take them off, and keep the cloak room tidy!

Spring is well on its way.

Our main area of learning last term has been Personal, Social and Emotional development. We felt the children have had to cope with many hurdles and their routines have changed dramatically and they had missed their close friends. Credit to them they have been real troupers and have fallen back into Pre School life and routines really well.

The week beginning 1st February was National Story Telling week and the staff shared their favourite books with the children. (My favourite experience was the book called Peely Wally by Kali Stileman that Sarah shared with us and we made a Peely Wally out of a blown egg) the children loved this.

On Thursday 11th February we celebrated Chinese New Year, the Year of the Ox. The children had great fun making head bands, money pockets and lanterns. We watched a short film about the Chinese dragon dance then rein acted it ourselves. The children took it in turns to create music using drums whilst the remaining children walked around the garden taking it in turns to hold the dragon head we had made using a cardboard box. The children used books to find out more information about the Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated and how the Emperor of China held a great race between many different animals to decide the order the different years would be celebrated. We all tried noodles, prawn crackers, soy sauce and sweet chilli sauce and used chopstick to eat our snack and packed lunch.

At Pre School we are always open to suggestions from the children. During term 3 the children became very interested in the story of Little Red Riding Hood, so because of this we have decided to continue into term 4 with traditional stories as our main theme. Our experiences will be shared in next terms newsletter.

Term Dates.

**Term 4 Mon February 22nd – Weds 31st March
Easter Holiday. 1st April – Fri 16th March.**

Term 5 Mon April 19th – Thursday 27th May.

Mon 3rd May Bank Holiday

Friday 28th May Inset Day

Half Term Mon 31st May – Fri 4th June

Term 6 Mon 7th June - Thurs 22nd July.

