



Play, Learn And Grow together.

Frome Valley Preschool



Issue 48

March 2017

Newsletter

Welcome to the March edition of the Preschool newsletter. We are fast approaching the summer term and for many children their last term in Preschool before starting school.

Our Preschool sessions for the next school year, which starts in September, are filling up fast so if you wish to change or increase your child's sessions please don't leave it too late to tell us.

TAPESTRY



We hope parents are enjoying accessing their children's Learning Journeys through Tapestry. We continue to be encouraged by the increasing number of parents that are adding their own photo's and video's of their children.

If you find there is a slight drop in the number of observations staff are producing it is because they are currently in the process of collating information from the children's Learning and Development and writing their reviews. These reviews will be sent home towards the end of term.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

After Easter we will be providing parents with another opportunity to meet with their child's Key Person to discuss their learning and development.

As before, each Member of staff will be allocated a day between Tuesday 2nd and Monday 8th May with ten minute appointments available before and after the start and end of the session.

Parents will be able to sign up for these when we return after the Easter break.

PE IN THE HALL

PE sessions in the school hall is a favourite activity of many of our Preschool children and this term we have been very fortunate to be given additional sessions with support from Mr Dailey and Mrs Membury.

Mr Dailey enabled the children to experience the wall bars and jumping equipment and hopes to return for a few more sessions during the summer term. Mrs Membury is currently providing some gym experiences.

PE in the Hall currently takes place at the following sessions.

- ◇ Monday Afternoon
- ◇ Wednesday Afternoon
- ◇ Thursday Morning

We do not expect the children to change into any specific clothing for PE sessions in the hall but we do get them to remove their shoes and socks. Could we ask that parents avoid sending their children in tricky shoes or tights on PE days. Staff will always support the children but we do encourage them to be as independent

LABELLING CLOTHES

Thank you to all those parents that have taken the time to write names in their children's clothes. It certainly has helped staff on numerous occasions to reunite children with the right clothes. Children don't always recognise their own clothes.

Could we please ask that parents also write their child's name in their shoes. We have a large number of children wearing the same or similar style shoes and they are also very similar in size!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 27th March

PTFA Family Easter Bingo Doors open at 5.30pm. Eyes down at 5.45pm

Friday 7th April

Last Day of Term

Monday 11th - Friday 21st April

Closed for Easter Break

Monday 24th April

First day of Spring Term

Monday 1st May

Closed for Bank Holiday

Tuesday 2nd - Monday 8th

Parent Consultations

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June

Closed for Half Term

Wednesday 7th June

Preschool Outing

Tuesday 13th June

Preschool Sports Day 9am - 10am

Thursday 16th, 23rd & 30th June

New Reception Children Starter sessions (pm)

Thursday 6th July

New Reception Children - Day in School

Friday 7th July

Preschool Leavers BBQ 3pm - 5pm

Thursday 20th July

Last Day of Term

Friday 21st July

Closed for Staff Training

Details of all Preschool and School Diary events can also be found on the calendar of the school website:

www.fromevalley.dorset.sch.uk

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ADDITIONAL FUNDED HOURS

As briefly mentioned in our February newsletter, Dorset will be offering the additional 15 hours, a total of 30 hours of free childcare, from April before it is rolled out nationally in September.

If you are among the many parents who are hoping to access additional hours funding from next month you will need to have obtained an eligibility code. The Preschool has to confirm with county that the code is valid before we can obtain the funding for you, so the sooner that you can provide Preschool with your code the better.

We are expecting a few teething problems with the new system but we have been informed that funding can not be obtained retrospectively.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible for this funding or are experiencing any difficulties please talk to Babs.

We are sorry that we have been unable to increase sessions for everyone that has requested them for the Summer term; we were not expecting Dorset to be introducing the additional hours early.

From September, additional sessions will be allocated on an availability basis.

WHAT IS ADDITIONAL FUNDED HOURS ?

All 3 and 4 year olds are already entitled to 15 hours free childcare funding from the term after their 3rd birthday. From September 2017, (April 2017 in Dorset) the Government will increase free childcare to up to 30 hours a week for eligible working parents.

Parents can find out more information and check whether they are eligible on the Dorset For You website

www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/childcare/30-hours-free

To be eligible children must be 3 or 4 years old and you (and your partner if you have one), must either:

- each expect to earn at least £111 a week or work* more than 16 hours at the National Minimum Wage.
- Or
- each expect to earn at least £115 a week or work* more than 16 hours at the National Living Wage,

This means you don't have to actually work 16 hours a week but earn at least the equivalent of these wage rates

*Work includes employed and self-employed persons.