



Play, Learn And Grow together.

# Frome Valley Preschool

Issue 47

February 2017

## Newsletter

Welcome to our February edition of the Preschool newsletter. February is a short preschool month, as we will be closed for half term in a few weeks time, but we still have a lot of fun activities planned.

### OLD NEWSPAPERS

Thank you for all the donations of yogurt pots; they are much appreciated. We are now in need of old newspapers. These are less easy to source as not many people have a regular newspaper but if you, a relative or neighbour do we would love to have them when you have finished reading them!



### PRESCHOOL SICKNESS

When children start attending Preschool it is not unusual for them to have lots of occasions when they are unwell. As they build up their immune system these times become less and less.

To reduce the spread of coughs and colds the children always have access to tissues and are encouraged to wash their hands regularly. Providing that a child is happy to attend and has not been sick or had diarrhea, during the previous **48 hours**, they can come to Preschool.

Staff at preschool are always happy to administer antibiotics or any other medication to your child. It must be in its original container and appropriately named with the dosage clearly stated.

If you think your child may be unwell and have given them Calpol before they come to preschool please let your child's key person know. We do ask that you also consider, if your child needs Calpol then are they really well enough to come? Once any benefits the Calpol may provide have worn off, your child's symptoms will reoccur leaving them unsettled and unhappy to be at Preschool.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Friday 10th February

Closed for Staff Training

#### Monday 13th - Friday 17th February

Closed for Half Term

#### 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

#### 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



### 30 HOURS FREE FUNDING

Currently, all 3 & 4 year olds are entitled to up to 15 hours of free childcare funding a week for 38 weeks a year. The Government are increasing this for working parents to 30 hours. It has just been announced that in Dorset this will now take effect from **April '17**. If you think you may be eligible or would like more information please talk to Babs.

## TAPESTRY

The children's Online Learning Journeys are now well established and the staff are really enjoying using tablets to record the children's observations. We have been really encouraged by the number of parents that are adding their comments and including their own pictures and observations from home. When staff make an observation, they highlight areas of learning that a child is developing which links to the Early Years Foundation Stage.

If you are unsure what this is the information below should help.



## WHAT IS THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE ?

The **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**, is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs. Nurseries, Pre-schools, Reception classes and childminders registered to deliver the EYFS must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

- Communication and Language,
- Physical Development and Personal,
- Social and Emotional Development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. Staff will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. It is important that you and the professionals caring for your child work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. These conversations will either need to be with your childminder or, in a larger setting like a nursery or preschool, with your child's **"key person"**. This is the person who:

- Is your main point of contact within the setting.
- Helps your child to become settled, happy and safe.
- Is responsible for your child's care, development and learning.
- Takes a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas as to how to help your child at home.

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### To find out more information

The most important place to find out more is **your child's childminder , Preschool or nursery** – do ask as many questions as you need to. Providers really do welcome speaking with you.

Information taken from "Parents guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework". [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk).