



Play, Learn And Grow together.

# Frome Valley Preschool

Issue 53

Sept 2017



## Newsletter

### WELCOME BACK

We are now well into the first half of our Autumn term so apologies on the delay for my first newsletter.

First of all I would like to welcome you all back, but also say hello to our new Pre-schoolers who have started with us this term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a big hello from me too. As many of you know I have joined the team this term and I am looking forward to working hard with the team and investing my time, effort and energy into the setting to make all of the children's experience with us the best it can possibly be.

I have been trying to make myself known to each of you, so if I have yet to make contact I can only apologise, I am getting there slowly, but please don't be shy and pop in and say hi!

### CHATTERBOXES

This term we will be introducing a new tool in order to support children with their PSED development which is called **CHATTERBOXES**. These will replace the current red files that we have on some of the children but will be there for children to access in much the same way. **WE NEED YOUR HELP THOUGH!!** First of all we need very kind donations of shoe boxes, we need around 30 and they can be all different sizes, so if you have any sturdy shoe boxes hanging around then please throw them our way. These chatterboxes will be decorated by the children themselves and then they will be sent home for children to put in things that they want to bring in and stay at preschool for a while. These items will be used for talking circles our smaller group activities, but will provide a supportive link from home to pre-school.



### JUST A FEW REMINDERS.

Please can we make sure that all your child's belongings that are brought into pre-school are named and also that you provide a full change of clothes for your child in their bags.

Although as I write this the rain is lashing down on the windows, we still may be lucky and get a few more days of sunshine. So with this in mind please make sure you are supplying us with a hat and sun cream for your child.

We are a nut free school so please check the contents of your child's lunch box, before sending them in. We also promote Healthy schools in pre-school.



### DRINKS STATION.

This term we will be introducing a drinks station into the classroom. This is something they will do in Reception and we feel the introduction in pre-school will be beneficial to their transitions. Could you please supply a drinks bottle of your choice with your child's name on and then these will be made accessible to the children throughout their time in pre-school.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October**  
Closed for Half Term

**Monday 30th October**  
Closed for Staff Training

**Friday 15th December**  
Last Day of Term

**Monday 18th December -  
Monday 1st January**  
Closed for Christmas Break

**Tuesday 2nd January '18**  
First Day of Spring Term



**The school will also be closed for staff training on:**

Friday 9th February '18  
Monday 25th July '18

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

**[www.fromevalley.dorset.sch.uk/website/calendar](http://www.fromevalley.dorset.sch.uk/website/calendar)**

### ADDITIONAL FUNDING (30 hours)

You can now apply for your additional funding for the spring term.

Working parents who are or hope to access additional funding for their child in the spring term must have applied for and been given an eligibility code that is dated by **31st December**. Any codes dated after this date **will not** be able to be used until the Summer term.

Parents already accessing this funding should be aware that the eligibility codes are valid for only 3 months and it is a parents responsibility to ensure they check the codes are still eligible. It is very important to do so as although there will be a grace period if you do not re-apply in time, they will withdraw your funding in the end.

If you want to find out more about this funding or are unsure how to check your code is still valid please talk to Gemma.

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

You can now apply for your child's school place online at <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/school-admissions>.

The cut off date for applications is 15th January 2018 and these places will be released on 16th April 2018. Any applications received after 15th January 2018 will be considered a late application and the outcome will not be released until 18th May 2018, so it is important that you submit your application sooner rather than later. Any questions please ask Gemma.

### DRESS FOR MESS.

This new term we will be introducing a lot more messy and exciting play for the children to experience whilst at pre-school and although aprons will be available to use, we feel it is really important to your child's learning that they are able to access such activities freely and confidently, so please ensure your child is "dressed for mess" so that we do not hinder their experiences and learning opportunities.

### TOY DONATIONS.

As a government funded pre-school we do have limited funds in which we can source new and exciting resources, so with this in mind we are asking for any toy donations you may have. If you find your house is over run with toys in good condition, that your children no longer play with, then we would gratefully receive them in the pre-school, we can assure you that they will be put to good use and well loved by all the children.

### CHANGES.

I feel it is important to address the fact that there will be a few changes to how the pre-school is run over the next few months. I have over 19 years of working with and studying children and play and have always held a high standard of a family run setting which I hope to bring to pre-school with the support of the current team.

One of the major changes which has already happened is the layout of the room, this allows the children to move more freely around the room with less constrictions to their play and development. We will keep you informed at all times with any further major changes, but if you have any questions or queries at anytime then please speak to Gemma.

Many thanks for your continued support.  
Gemma and the team.