



# Preschool Matters

**Ancells Farm Community Preschool Newsletter**

Issue 1, September 2015

## Autumn Term - Welcome Back!

I am delighted to welcome you all back and particularly all the new children who have joined us. We're all looking forward to having lots of fun this year and once the children are settled back in to preschool we will begin all the activities that we have planned. Our themes this term are 'All About Me' and Autumn.

### **All About Me**

We'll be talking about family and friends, differences and similarities, likes and dislikes, people from different countries and cultures, healthy eating and bodies.

### **Autumn**

We will look at changes in our environment, collecting leaves, harvesting our vegetables, talking about where they come from and what they look, smell, feel and taste like. We will also have an autumn box and I encourage you all to bring in leaves, conkers, and acorns from your journey to preschool to go inside. The children really enjoy talking about the treasures they find which stimulates communication and language development.

If you are able to come in and help or have any ideas, your time and support are always welcomed.



**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE : Christmas Bazaar \* Change to fee policy \* Diary dates**

# Messages and updates

## 2015 Graduation

The end of last term saw the graduation of eleven of our children. We celebrated the occasion with a Princesses and Superheroes party and the children dressed in their best to enjoy plenty of dancing, games and party food. The event was a mixture of tears and smiles as we said goodbye to old friends and wished them well on their next adventure in 'big' school. To commemorate the occasion the children released helium balloons labelled with their names. The prize for the most intrepid balloon belongs to Havish - his was found by a lady called Susannah when it landed in her garden ... in Norway !



## Fee Policy

Please be aware that we have changed the fees policy. You can download a copy from our website, but in a nutshell, our fees have increased slightly, and are now due monthly, payable in advance. If payment is not received by the 10th of the month, we reserve the right to refuse a child entry until payment is made. In addition we now ask for a months notice to reduce or increase days. We have made these changes to enable better planning of activities within the Preschool and appreciate your patience while we switch to this new way of working. .

## Christmas Bazaar - Save the Date!

It may only be September but planning has already begun for the Christmas Bazaar. This year's event will be held on Sunday 13 December in the Ancells Farm Community Centre. As well as a fun family day out it is a vital fundraising event for the preschool. Please save the date in your diary and we urge you encourage all your family, friends and neighbours to attend. In next month's newsletter we will tell you much more about the event and how you can support it.



# ***Supporting your Preschool***

## ***Your Preschool***

The clue is in the name - Ancells Farm 'Community' Preschool. Many parents are often not aware that our preschool is a registered charity. The school is run for the benefit of the local community and on a not for profit basis.



## ***Having a clear out ?***

As a community preschool we always welcome any suitable donations of toys, puzzles, and books that would stimulate and develop the children. If you are having a clear out at home then please donate anything (in good working order) and age appropriate that is no longer required at home. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

We rely heavily on parental involvement to remain up and running and we urge you all to volunteer any time that you have either to help with fundraising activities, help out in the preschool settling or join the committee.

The committee of trustees is made up of parents and local volunteers who help run the preschool. The more help and support there is—the more we can do for your children to ensure that their experience in preschool is as fulfilling and rewarding as possible. If you would like to help or volunteer in any capacity - be it joining the committee, helping with snack time, reading or in the preschool garden, or organising fundraising events, then please speak to Sue.

# ***Just a reminder ...***

## ***Child Absence***

Should your child be unable to attend the pre-school on a day they would normally, can you please call or text us to let us know.

The number to call/txt is:

**07923 477904**



## ***Snack Time***

Don't forget to send your child to pre-school with a piece of a fruit and a healthy carbohydrate snack. Snack time is a favourite element of the pre-school day for the children, they enjoy sitting around the snack table and sharing the variety of food options that are provided whilst talking with the staff and each other.



## ***Diary Dates***

Fleet Infants Parents Open Evening

**Wednesday 30 September**

Heathside Infants Open Evening

**Tuesday 6 October**

Half Term

**26—30 October**

Christmas Bazaar

**Sunday 13 December**

Last day of term

**Friday 18 December**



## ***Parents Observations***

We encourage you all to record any observations you make outside the pre-school which you feel demonstrate your child's development and learning progress. These observations really help us plan 'next steps' activities so if you have any please use the forms on the next page to record them and then hand them to your key worker. Examples would be your child learning and remembering colours, numbers or letters. Demonstrating signs or songs that they've learnt at school or new words or skills that they are picking up.

Date :

Observation:

Observed by:

Date :

Observation:

Observed by:

Date :

Observation:

Observed by:

Date :

Observation:

Observed by:

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# EYFS Focus - Fine Motor Skills

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In this month's look at the EYFS framework we take a look at the fine motor skills. Your child is constantly finding out about their body. They learn new skills everyday that increase their movements, their dexterity and keep them fit. Boys especially have to burn off energy by moving and running about!

But it's not just the big movements that are important. Part of the EYFS framework ensures we also look at the smaller ones, especially the hands. We

do activities like threading beads, cutting out paper, jigsaws etc. in order to improve the ability to handle smaller objects. This "practice" then contributes to the skill of drawing and eventually mark making and writing.

## ***Things You can do at home***

- Make your own jigsaw, let your child draw a picture then cut it into pieces
- Encourage drawing and mark making
- Play games that encourage hand-to-eye coordination, like throwing a ball and catching it



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