

# Preschool Matters

Ancells Farm Community Preschool Newsletter

Issue 7, December 2016

## SPRING TERM FUN !

Welcome back to spring term where our topics are 'People who help us.' We are discussing the different roles of 'people who help us to stay healthy' such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, dentists and vets, and 'people who help us to stay safe' including firefighters and the police. We hope to have a visit from a local policeman who will talk about stranger danger.

We have lots of activities planned. We've already tasted haggis to celebrate **Burns Night** and for **Chinese New Year** (year of the monkey) on 8th February, the children made their own noodles with ingredients of their choice. **Pancake Day** is on 9th February and we will be making our own pancakes and then seeing who can flip the highest!

Our **Mother's Day lunch** is on 4th March from 12.15-13.00 and the children will help prepare a lovely lunch for you to enjoy. And on 24th March there will be an **Easter Egg Hunt**!

We have introduced a '**wow**' board in the crèche area. We welcome all parents and carers to share any wow moments from home, such as zipping up their coat, pedalling a bike etc. There are wow cards to write on, you can even bring in a picture to share during our circle time. Also in the crèche is our **comments and suggestions book**, please use this to give us any feedback you may have.

At the end of last term Carly left us to take up a new opportunity but we are delighted to welcome Louise to the team. Louise is volunteering four days a week and she will be helping with snack and also leading our fun fit sessions



Haggis tasting for Burns Night

# ***Christmas Bazaar: Thank You To All***

Although it seems like a distant memory our Christmas Bazaar was only two months ago! A great selection of stalls, fantastic raffle prizes and plenty of fun activities ensured that we raised much needed funds to support our preschool.

We are extremely grateful to our County Council representative, Councillor Adrian Collett, for accepting our invitation to attend. After walking around the stalls, meeting staff, parents and children, Councillor Collett drew the first raffle ticket and made one chap's day when he won our grand prize, an iPad Air. Everyone at the Preschool sends their gratitude to Councillor Collett for his support.



**Councillor Collett prepares to draw the winning raffle ticket.**

## **A great big THANK YOU !**

The Christmas Bazaar requires a great deal of planning and organisation and would not be possible without a great team effort so we'd like to say a great big thank you to:

- Everyone who donated books, toys and baked cakes
- Haritha and Reddy (Havish's parents) for all the delicious Indian food which they cooked and sold - donating all money raised to the preschool.
- All the businesses that generously donated raffle prizes - notably Hamilton Rentals who donated the iPad Air
- The Falkner's Arms who let us borrow their tombola
- Dasa (Justin's mum) for lending us a table
- Vicki Brown for many hours spent creating the Reindeer Dash Treasure hunt and the Giant Lolly Pull
- And everyone else who manned a stall and spent money !

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# Parents Consultation and EGM

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On Thursday 25th February from 9:30 a.m. we will be holding parent consultation sessions. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your child's key worker and discuss their develop. Your key worker will have your child's personal learning journal which you can review together.

Also taking place on this date will be an EGM (An Extraordinary General Meeting) which the committee has called.

The committee meets once a month to discuss strategy and governance and there is an AGM held at the end of each school year. As our current chair is stepping down we will be appointing a new chair at the EGM.

The meeting will be your opportunity to learn more about how the pre-school is run, talk to the committee and ask them any questions you may have.

## *Fundraising Update*

We are delighted to announce that following our successful application, the Preschool has been awarded a grant from South East Water's Community Chest Fund. Some of this money has already been put to good use in purchasing a new indoor play kitchen that the children are really enjoying. With the funds we also intend to purchase a mud kitchen and additional shed for the garden. We would like to thank South East Water for awarding us this grant and also thanks in advance to Wayne (Isabelle's Step-Dad) for offering to build the shed for us !



Enjoying the new play kitchen

# Extended Opening Hours

At the end of last year you received a questionnaire that asked for the thoughts of parents concerning the pre-school's current opening hours. The purpose of this survey was to ascertain if there would be sufficient uptake should the preschool expand its opening hours.

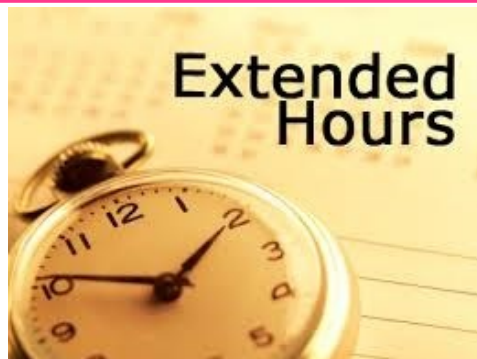
Following the feedback we received preparations are currently underway to enable the preschool to open for two afternoons each week.

The timings of the afternoon sessions will be 1pm until 2.45pm however we have not yet confirmed on which days the afternoon sessions will operate.

Afternoon opening will allow parents increased flexibility in taking employment opportunities as well as enhance our offering to attract new children. For those children who are in their final year at Preschool, afternoon openings will give them a taster of a longer school day, in preparation starting at Infant school in September.

If you haven't already done so please register your interest for afternoon sessions with Sue.

There will be a full communication including the cost per session and the timings sent out to parents in due course.



## Welcome to Louise !

We are delighted to welcome a new pair of hands on to our team. Louise is a bright young 20 year old who is currently volunteering with us –The children all love her and we're delighted to have her on our team. We asked Louise to share a bit about herself.

"I first began working with children about a year ago, when I was face painting at local events to raise money for my favourite charity, Camberley Cats Protection. I found engaging with the children came naturally to me and I wanted to develop in a professional environment. By volunteering at Ancells Farm Preschool I hope to gain valuable experience which will eventually lead to a full time career in childcare.

In my spare time I am a Hula Hoop fitness instructor, mainly for adults, however since joining the Preschool I have been Hula Hooping with the children which they really enjoyed.