

Makaton

Did you know that the children at pre-school can understand over sixty Makaton signs? You may have seen them in action in the Christmas pageant last year.

At pre-school we use Makaton signing to support children's spoken language. Makaton encourages language development, i.e. putting words together and understanding, by giving an extra visual clue, which gives children more time to take in information.

There are many benefits to using Makaton with children, such as;

- Building communication prior to speech
- Supporting emotional development
- Enhancing language development
- Building attention and listening skills
- Strengthening relationships
- Promoting fine and gross motor skills



If you would like to know more about Makaton and how you can support your child's learning at home please speak to Harsha, who is the Makaton lead at pre-school.

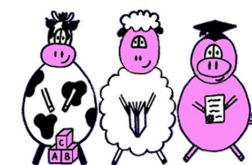
Useful sites for more information about Makaton are www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/article/makaton and www.makaton.org

Staffing Update

As you may know there have been some changes to staff at the pre-school. We have said goodbye to Charmaine and Kayley and welcomed Heather onto the team following her recent volunteering role at the pre-school.

Where there has been a change to your child's keyperson you will have been informed. Did you know that each keyperson has a back-up in case of illness or unexpected absence?

<u>Keyperson</u>	<u>Back-up</u>
Sue	Harsha
Harsha	Sue
Heather	Tracey
Tracey	Heather



Preschool Matters

Ancells Farm Community Pre-school Newsletter

Issue 9 - Spring Term 2017

SPRING TERM FUN!

We are now half way through the Spring term, and have been really busy. We have celebrated Chinese New Year. Thank you to Nils' mummy for helping us to cook delicious noodles.; the children really enjoyed them and even tried hard to use chopsticks.

Last week we celebrated Valentine's Day. Thank you for joining us for coffee and biscuits. We have been talking about letters and cards and we took a trip to the post office where the children weighed their own letter to send. We then posted it in the post box to see how long it would take to be delivered. The children were very excited when it finally arrived back to pre-school.

This terms theme is animals. We have been looking at different types of animals, where they live, naming mummies and babies, grouping and looking at different sizes. We have had lots of fun with role play stories, animal yoga and lots of animal songs, talking about our own pets and the pets of families and friends.



Special days to remember

We break up for half term on the **17th February**, and will be back on the **27th February**.

28th February - Pancake day

2nd March - World Book Day, dress up as your favourite book character.

17th March - St. Patrick's day

22nd March - Mother's Day lunch 12.00-13.00 all Mum and Nans welcome.

7th April - Easter bonnet parade 09.30 All children and their families are invited to attend. Children and parents to make a bonnet at home and bring in on the day.

Sue

Volunteering

Do you fancy taking on a new challenge? Want to have something interesting to put on your CV? Then why not join us on the pre-school committee?

The pre-school is a registered charity and is run by a committee of volunteers drawn from the local community, and the parents of the pre-school.

We meet once a month to discuss any issues the pre-school has and to plan fundraising activities.

Some of the things we do include:

- Discussing the running of the pre-school and suggesting ideas for improvements or solutions to problems
- Help to brainstorm ideas for activities and themes for the children
- Fundraising

So if you want to be more involved with your child's education, or simply want to gain some experience for your CV, come and join the committee. We are a friendly bunch who are always looking for fresh new perspective.

You'd be surprised how your skills and experience can help the pre-school!

Members of the committee will be attending the Mother's Day lunch on March 22nd so please do come and say hi if you'd like to know more about the committee. Or you can contact the current secretary on afcpssecretary@gmail.com or speak to Sue.

Fundraising

Do you shop online?

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for the pre-school?

No cost, no catch.

Just visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/afcp/> to sign up.



Important reminders

- Please cut grapes, cherry tomatoes and other small items of fruit in half **lengthwise** in lunch boxes. This is extremely important as young children can choke on large pieces of fruit.
- Please **do not** include nuts or nut products in lunchboxes as per our Food and Drink policy which can be found on our website or at the pre-school.
- Please label **all** clothes including outerwear as well as your child's water bottle and lunchbox.



- Please **do not** put juice in your child's water bottle. Water only please!
- **Snack items** may include carbohydrates (bread/breadsticks/pittas), fresh/dry fruits, vegetables and dairy products such as cheese and yogurts. If you are unsure what to bring for snack time, or what to include in your child's lunch box., then please speak to a member of staff.
- Please log in to **Baby's Days** and give your key person feedback. We would really like you to add observations and pictures from home as this helps with planning next steps for your child/children. If you need any help please book an appointment with Sue. There is also an app you can download on your phone for instant messages. Please speak to Sue for log in details.
- We are collecting **Sainsburys Active Kids** vouchers. These vouchers can be redeemed against a wide range of activities and cooking equipment. Please bring in any vouchers and pop them in the box in the crèche, thank you.
- Mobile phones **must not** be used once inside the setting.
- Please contact pre-school on the **first day** of your child's sickness. Absence needs to be recorded by the setting so it is very important we know if a child is sick, absent or on holiday.