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UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL - PRESCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS

June 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all had a lovely half term.

Please take the time to read this newsletter as it contains important information, dates and updates.

Inset and Occasional Day

Just a reminder this Thursday 6th June is an Inset Day and Monday 10th June is an Occasional Day. Preschool will be **CLOSED** on both these days.

Mobile Phones & Cameras

Please remember that mobile phones and cameras are **NOT** to be used whilst you are on the premises, this includes when you are waiting in the line outside to either drop off or pick up your child. If you receive a phone call whilst dropping off or picking up your child, please wait until you have left to answer it. **Can you also pass this information on to anyone else who might drop off or pick up your child please. If a member of staff sees anyone using their phone whilst on the premises, they will ask you to either put it away or end your call.**

New Bells On Gates

We have had 2 new bells installed on the iron gates that lead into the garden. From now on the padlocks will be on the gates at all times during preschool hours so if you need to enter the premises for any reason, please ring the bell and a member of staff will come out and help you.

New Members of staff

I am pleased to announce that 2 new members of staff have joined our team here at preschool.

Mrs Worsey will be working in the main room as a Key person for Yellow group alongside Mrs Arnott.

Mrs Jamoula will be working upstairs this half term in the Nursery with Mrs Bates and Mrs Burroughs.

Extra Days In September

If your child is staying with us in September and you would like to increase their sessions, please could you email me and let me know. We have several new children starting with us in September, so I want to make sure you receive the days you require.

Photographer

On Wednesday 19th June we have a photographer coming into Preschool. For those children who normally attend a Wednesday morning we will take them into the church to have individual photos taken throughout the session.

If you would like a family photo taken, please feel free to bring any siblings along too and have the photo taken before you drop off your child at preschool.

If your child/ren do not normally come into preschool on a Wednesday you are still more than welcome to pop into the church throughout the morning and have their photo taken, there will be a member of staff in the church to greet you. You are also welcome to have family photos taken if you wish.

There is NO obligation to buy the photos, but I am sure once you have seen them you will not be able to resist.

A small percentage of the money goes back into Preschool.

The photographer will be situated in the church that day from about 8.30am onwards.

Opera Under the Stars!!

Two of our parents, Alison Langer and Lawrence Thackeray are professional Opera singers and they have kindly agreed to perform for us at this fundraising event. We are currently raising money for a new gazebo which we would like for the garden, as it will provide us with shelter during the winter and shade through the summer!

Ali and Lawrence will perform operatic delights ranging from Verdi to musical theatre - something for everyone!!

Date: Friday 21st June

Time : 7.30pm -10pm

Venue: URC Preschool Garden

Tickets : £15 early bird / £20 after 12th June (please note the early bird offer has been extended by another week!!)

Tickets price includes a glass of prosecco, beer or soft drink

Tickets can be purchased using the link I sent out in a separate email or by scanning the QR code on the poster which you will find on the parent's notice board.

Sports Day

On the last day of term, Thursday 18th July we will be holding our sports day (weather dependant). It will be a normal drop off that day for the children who normally attend a Thursday session.

The races will begin at 11.30am and the gates to the garden will be open from 11.00am for you to come and find a spot to sit in the garden beforehand. Please note that grandparents, siblings etc are welcome to come along and watch also.

After you enter the garden can I please remind you to put the chain on the gate to keep all the children safe during the event.

Sports day is due to finish at 12pm and afterwards we thought it would be nice to have a picnic together in the garden so don't forget to bring a blanket to sit on and some lunch for yourselves and your child/ren.

Please note if you are unable to come along and watch your child at sports day, pick up will be at 12pm, there is NO lunch club or afternoon session.

Please can I ask you not to sit on the lid of the sand pit on the day as it is too distracting for the children being so close to where they will be sitting.

Could I also ask you to leave a space near the steps going down into the garden, so we have a path to walk down when we bring the children out.

If there are any children who do not normally attend a Thursday session but would like to join in with sports day you are more than welcome to come along when the gates open however you will be responsible for your child throughout the event.

There will be a small stack of red chairs in the garden when you arrive, I have put these out for any elderly relatives who might be joining us or any pregnant mums we may have.

Please remember that it is fine if your child wants to be with you during the event however once they are with you, they will then be your responsibility.

Please note that unfortunately due to Safeguarding reasons there are NO photos or videos allowed, we will do our best to capture the races on Tapestry for you.

If we do have to cancel Sports day due to the weather, it will be a normal morning for the children who attend a Thursday session. We will still finish at 12pm and we will hold the picnic in the hall instead. If your child doesn't normally attend a Thursday session and Sports day is cancelled, you and your child/ren are more than welcome to join us for the picnic at 12pm in the hall.

Clothing

Please may I remind you to bring a **NAMED** sun hat for your child/ren each day and put sun cream on them before they come into preschool now that the nice weather is here.

Leavers

We will be saying goodbye to the children in the main room who will be leaving us on the last week of term from Monday 15th July. The children's Key person will record the ceremony and post it on Tapestry. In nursery the teachers will say goodbye to the red group children on Wednesday 17th July the day before Sports day.

Parent's Notice Board

Please remember to take the time to have a look as myself and the PTA will keep it updated with any relevant information.

Sickness

Parents must keep any child at home who has an infection. You are also asked not to bring any child into pre-school who has been vomiting or had diarrhoea until a clear **48 hours** has elapsed (this is a Health & Safety recommendation). If your child comes in before this time, they will not only infect the other children but the staff as well.

Please remember that at Preschool we must always adhere to ratios to keep your children safe therefore if too many staff go off sick from an illness, Preschool may have to close!

Therefore, we ask please **DO NOT** bring your child into preschool if you have had to give them Calpol in the morning because they are feeling poorly.

Please may I remind you to inform us before 09.00am on the following number (07480369531) if your child is sick and will not be in pre-school, as we need to keep a record of children who are absent. If a child is continually absent it will be necessary for us to inform Ofsted.

Parents will be informed if there are any infections such as head lice, impetigo or other infectious diseases which may affect other children or their parents.

Lunch Club

Please remember that you should not give your child anything that contains nuts or sesame in their lunch box. Things that may include nuts and sesame include certain types of pesto, tahini and nut butters. Please remember to cut up fruit and vegetables such as tomatoes and grapes (lengthways) to prevent choking.

We have always offered a healthy snack during the morning session, and we would like to continue this practice during lunch club also. Therefore, we are continuing to encourage the children to have only either water or milk (which we will supply) at lunch club rather than squash and we also ask that you do not put chocolate bars/ cakes into the children's lunch boxes either. Lastly, now the weather is getting hotter it might be an idea to put a small icepack in your child's lunchbox to keep their food cold.

Change of Details

Please can you inform me if any of your details change from what you originally put on your registration form and continue to do this if anything changes throughout the year, this includes your contact number, your address, email address etc.

Collecting Children

As you know the safety of your children is always important and therefore, we have the password system in place when a child is being collected. Please remember if you are not collecting your child, then inform either the member of staff on the door or the gate who is picking your child up and ensure that the person collecting them has the current password. We feel that this system, now widely used in pre-schools, is an extra addition to our usual thorough security measures. If you are unsure about the password system, please have a word with me.

Library Service

We are also bringing back our Library system which gives you the opportunity to borrow books from Preschool to read to your children at home. Next to the parent's board at the top of the grass there will be a box, please help yourself to a book of your child's choice and then return it once you have finished.

Website

Please remember that our website www.urcpreschool.com is updated regularly You will be able to find most of the information relevant to our existing parents under the parent's area drop down menu, along with links to websites that might be of interest to you such as the Tapestry login page.

PTA Facebook Page and Whatsapp Group

Please remember to join our PTA Facebook page and the Whatsapp group if you haven't already done so. They are both closed groups, just for the parents of the children attending the URC. It would be great if everyone could sign up to both as the PTA often put important and relevant information and notices on there. If you'd like to join the Whatsapp group, please message Sarah Ward (chair of the PTA) on 07503756659 and she will then add you.

Tapestry

We use Tapestry regularly to send updates about your child's time with us at Preschool, we also use it to inform you of what activities your child will be participating in. However, this might not be after every session your child attends as its important the staff spend time just playing with the children. Please check your child's journal regularly and add a comment when you receive an observation, photo or video. We would also like you to add photos and videos of the things the children do outside of Preschool too. By doing this it will enable you and your child's key person to work closely in partnership together to provide the best support for your child. You can also use Tapestry as a form of communication between you and your key person if you need to discuss anything, use the observation tool to add any information that you would like to share with us, and we will get back to you. Please note that these comments will not go into your child's learning journal and will be deleted once resolved.

Communication with your Key Person

If you would prefer to meet face to face with your key person during the year, please let me know and we will arrange a date and time that is convenient for you both.

Snack Contributions

In the past parents have been very generous in helping the PTA by donating food for the children to have at snack time, this included cheese, crackers, fruit and vegetables. If you would like to contribute something there will be a basket at the top of the grass at, drop off time every morning.

Birthdays

When it's your child/ren birthday we will celebrate it with them during the session with their peers and we will put the video/ pictures on Tapestry for you to see. We ask parents to bring in one pack of Pom Bears to share with all the children on the day.

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 19th June - Photographer

Friday 21st June – Opera Under the Stars!

Thursday 11th July – Transition Day / New Red group children

Thursday 18th July – Last day of term / There will be NO lunch club or afternoon session on this day.

Monday 2nd September – Inset Day / Stay and Play - Come and meet your New Teacher. Please save the date, more information to follow.

Tuesday 3rd September – First day of the Autumn term.

Kind regards

Lorraine Robinson