



**WWW.URCPRESCHOOL.COM**  
**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL - PRESCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS**

November 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians.

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

### **Nativity**

Our Nativity this year will be on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 11am.**

**ALL** the children (even if your child does not normally attend a Monday morning) are welcome to come in on that day, so they can all be a part of the service.

Drop off is at the normal time of either **8.30am** or **9am**

The doors of the church will be open from **10.30am** which should give everyone plenty of time to find your seats.

Everyone is welcome to come along, watch and sing; mums, dads, grandmas, grandads, aunties and uncles, the only thing we do not allow is **pushchairs**, as you can imagine the church is full and this could become a fire hazard.

Once again, the performance will be recorded and you can receive a copy upon request a few days after the service. **Please let me know if you do not want your child to be filmed on the day.**

After the service the children will come back into the hall, get changed and have a drink and a biscuit before pick up time.

The PTA will be selling mince pies and mulled wine after the Nativity has finished in the church.

**Preschool will finish at 12pm on this day so there will be No lunch club or afternoon session.**

### **Christmas Party**

Our Christmas party will be held on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.** This is the last day of term.

**ALL** the children (even if your child does not normally attend a Tuesday morning) are welcome to come in on that day, so they can join in with the fun!!

Drop off is at the slightly later time of **10am**

Nearer the time there will be a list of food available, you will see a member of staff on the gate with a clipboard at drop off and pick up times. We ask each parent to bring in something from the list to share out with all the children at the party for example a plate of sandwiches, a box of cakes etc.

Our entertainer this year is going to be Cha Cha Chimps.

And another special visitor will also be joining us at the end of the morning. I am sure you will want to be with your child/ren when the Special Visitor (Father Christmas) arrives, so we are inviting you to come back to Preschool at 11.45am to be with them. A member of staff will be on the door to welcome you into the hall.

Once your child/ren has seen Father Christmas you can then take your child/ren home.

Please note that Preschool will finish at 12pm on this day so there will be **No** lunch club or afternoon session

### **Reception School Places**

If your child is currently in Red Group, please remember that the deadline to apply for your school place / Reception is **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

### **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 in order 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**

I would like to thank you all for your support in encouraging healthy eating throughout the setting. We have noticed that all the children are now bringing water to drink rather than juice and the sugary snacks for example chocolate, cakes, and biscuits etc are being substituted for something healthier! Thank you. 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. It is also 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.

### **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. The notice board can be found on the wall next to the blue double Fire Exit doors.

### **Library Service**

We have a 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 is 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](http://www.urcpreschool.com) is updated regularly with news and information.

### **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 Fabiana (chair of the PTA) on 07896 754757 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. Please check your child's journal regularly and add a comment when you receive an observation, photo or video. We will endeavour to send you lots of photos, videos etc of your child on Tapestry however please remember that under the new EYFS guidelines it is just as important that your child's Key person is spending quality time playing and teaching your child rather than working on their tablet so you might not receive something every week. 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.

When your child's key person writes an observation on your child you will see at the bottom, a few sentences on what the key person will be working on with your child next to progress them further and how you can support this at home. By adding a 'What's Next' to the observation it gives you an insight to your child's development with us.

### **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.

### **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.**

### **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 a multipack of salted Pom Bears to share with all the children on the day.

### **First Day Back after the Christmas Break**

Preschool starts back on [Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January](#)

Kind Regards,

Lorraine Robinson