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June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine!!

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

**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.

**Sports Day**

I am sorry to say that we have had to make the hard decision to cancel sports day again this year due to Covid! Unfortunately, we are starting to see cases rise again with this new variant and after consulting with the church I have been asked to cancel the event to try and carry on keeping everyone safe and well before the start of the summer holidays. I know it is such a shame, but I do hope you all understand.

**Leavers**

We will be saying goodbye to the children who will be leaving us on the last week of term from Monday 12th July. The children’s Key person will record the ceremony and post it on Tapestry.

**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 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.

**Covid-19 Update**

To protect all our families and our staff and due to the rising cases from the new Delta variant we continue to ask all adults to wear a face mask whilst on the premises. Please could I remind you to wear a face covering during drop off and pick up until you have left the gate on Vaughan Road, this includes whilst you are queuing around the back of the church.

We also ask you NOTto bring your child into the setting if they have a temperature or cough and need Calpol before preschool in the morning. If your child develops a cough or high temperature, please could you test them using a lateral flow test which you are able to pick from the local chemists before you bring them into Preschool and then let me know the result.

**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. I will be sending out more information on healthy eating and ideas on what to put in children’s lunch boxes. 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.

**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.

**Website**

Please remember that our website www.urcpreschool.com is updated regularly with news and information about both the preschool and our PTA. 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. On the website, we have a blog that is regularly updated with information about what the children learn about during their time at Preschool and other exciting news that we would like to share with you!

**PTA Facebook Page**

Please remember to join our PTA Facebook page, if you haven’t already done so. It is a closed group, just for the parents of the children attending the URC. It would be great if everyone could sign up to the page as the PTA often put important and relevant information and notices on there.

**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 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. Due to the current situation, this will also be the main point 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.

**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 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.

**Snack Contributions**

Before Covid restrictions took hold, parents were very generous in helping the PTA by donating food for the children to have at snack time, this included cheese, crackers, fruit and vegetables. We now feel it is safe to ask for your help once again so if you would like to contribute something there will be a basket at the entrance of the building at drop off time every morning.

**Dates for Your Diary**

The week beginning Monday 28th June we will be holding Red group consultations via ZOOM. Red group parents will receive an email to organise a suitable date and time shortly.

Thursday 8th July – Transition Day / New Red group children

**Thursday15th July** – Last day of term - 9-1pm There will be NO afternoon session on this day.

Wednesday 1st September – First day of Autumn term for Red Group children.

Monday 6th September – First day of Autumn term for the Main room and Rainbow room children.

**2021 – 2022 Term Dates**

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| Autumn Term | First day of term – Wednesday 1st September (New Red Group children)  Please note that on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th there will be NO afternoon  Sessions.  First day of term – Monday 6th September (Main room and Rainbow room children)  Half Term – Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October   Last day of term – Thursday 16th December |
| Spring Term | First day of term – Tuesday 4th January  Half Term – Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February  Last day of term – Thursday 31st Marchpage1image16160 |
| Summer Term | First day of term –Tuesday 19th April  Half Term – Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June  Last day of term – Thursday 21st July page1image16160 |

**Please note I have not added any Inset days or an occasional day at present, but I will advise once confirmed.**

Kind regards

Lorraine