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October 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians.

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

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

As you would have read in a previous email, I sent out this weekend Herts County Council have started to bring back a few restrictions into the education system as numbers of Covid cases continue to rise across Hertfordshire. We will be watching this guidance carefully and will act accordingly if we need to and I will keep you updated on any changes we might have to make.

We also ask you NOT to 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 book a PCR test before you bring them into Preschool and then let me know the result.

Nativity

Our Nativity this year will be on Wednesday 15th December. It has been a very hard decision again but unfortunately due to the continuing rise in numbers of Covid cases in Hertfordshire we will not be allowing parents into the church when we perform the Nativity. We are looking into the possibility of using ‘Zoom’ so parents can join us and watch the performance, but I will send out more information on this once a final decision has been made. Please note as we are not inviting parents into the church to watch this will be a normal day!

Christmas Party

Our Christmas party will be held on Thursday 16th December, the last day of term. Please note that Preschool will finish at 12pm on this day so there will be No lunch club or afternoon session. Once again, I am sad to say that parents will not be allowed to come into the setting to join us on the day as we have done in previous years. It would be lovely if the children could dress up for the occasion and nearer the time, we will ask parents for contributions to the party food.

Reception School Places

If your child is currently in Red Group, please remember that the deadline to apply for your school place / Reception is January 15th 2022.

PTA Fundraiser

As the Pumpkin Party dress up week was so successful, thank you to you all for your contributions, the PTA have decided to hold another dress up fundraiser this time for Nursery Rhyme week! From Monday 15th November – Thursday 18th November your child can dress up as a character from their favourite nursery rhyme. The children can either dress up all week although they don’t need a different costume for each day, or they can just dress up for one day, there is no pressure so please don’t stress!! And just like before the member of staff on the front door will have a bucket to collect any donations that you give. Thank you.

Children’s Belongings

If your child is not yet toilet trained, please could you include some nappies and wipes in their bags. Could I also ask you to name all your child’s clothing as this would really help the staff at the end of the day when they are sorting out wet clothes that are drying on the radiators.

Lunch Club

Other changes Ofsted have made in the new EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) is the big emphasis on healthy eating and good oral health. With this in mind, we have been looking carefully into how we can promote this in the preschool. As you know we have always offered a healthy snack during the session, and we would like to now continue this practice during lunch club also. Therefore, going forward, we would like 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 after half term either. Thank you.

Whilst we are on the subject about healthy eating there are other foods that the children sometimes have that we all think are healthy, but they contain a considerable amount of sugar or they are not the best things to eat to promote good oral health, these include raisins, smoothies, and the fruit winders. However, we have decided to move slowly with this change which is why we are starting with the juice and chocolate. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause but hopefully you will see that we are just trying to do our best for the children.

Term Dates

I attached to the email the term dates for this academic year. Please note that there is an Inset Day planned for Tuesday 4th January. So, Preschool will start back after the Christmas break on Wednesday 5th January.

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.

Parent Board

We have a new notice board in the garden which you will find on the top of the grass area each day, please take the time to have a look as we will continue to add any relevant information to it.

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 2 boxes, 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 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.

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 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 we would be very grateful.

Kind Regards,

Lorraine Robinson (Manager)