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September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome back all our existing parents and welcome all the parents who have just joined us at Preschool.

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

**Funding Forms**

Just a reminder that if you received a funding form, they need to be returned as soon as possible please.

**Fees**

I will be emailing out the invoices this week to those parents who pay fees for their children.

**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.

**New EYFS**

As I have mentioned in previous emails the EYFS (Early years foundation stage) is changing following Ofsted's guidance. I have attached a letter that explains the changes and how this will impact us as a setting. The main change parents need to be aware of is that as practitioners we are being encouraged to do less paperwork on observations etc and spend more time playing and teaching the children. In turn this means you might see less written observations in your child's journal and more photos and videos showing your child's progress throughout the year.

**Covid-19 Update**

As restrictions have now been lifted, we are going to leave it up to individual parents to decide whether they want to wear a mask at drop off and pick up times however we would like you to continue to queue up down the side of the church as we have been doing the past year and we will continue with a one in one out system for now!! (Small steps!!)

We would also ask that the children bring in a small bag to put on their pegs with a few items of spare clothing please and If your child is not yet toilet trained, please could you also include some nappies and wipes.

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 book a PCR test before you bring them into Preschool and then let me know the result.

**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 Thursday 23rd September and Thursday 21st October. As of yet no other Inset days or Occasional days have been scheduled for this academic year but I will give you advance warning when these are due to take place.

**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 morning at drop off, 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 there will be a basket at the entrance of the building at drop off time every morning.

**PTA Coffee Morning**

Please join us on Monday 27th September in the church after dropping off for a PTA coffee morning. Younger siblings are welcome, and it would be lovely to see you all there. It is a great way to meet other parents in the setting.

Kind Regards,

Lorraine Robinson (Manager0