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UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL - PRESCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS

January 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year to you all, we hope you all had a Wonderful Christmas!

I would like to start by saying thank you all for the generous gifts and the collection of money at the end of term, it really was very kind of you all!

Welcome back to our existing parents and we would also like to welcome all our new parents whose children will be joining us this term.

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

Reception School Places

If your child is currently in Red Group, please remember that the deadline to apply for your school place / Reception is [Thursday 15th January 2026](#).

Funding Forms

This week I will be giving out funding forms to those children who are entitled to their free 15 hours (it is the same form as before) however this time I need you to complete the [Spring Term](#) section on the form before returning it to me. If you have received a new form, just a reminder I need it filling in and sending back to me please. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact via email or text or speak to me on the door.

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.

Appropriate Clothing

As you all know we go out in the garden everyday whatever the weather therefore please can you make sure that your child wears appropriate clothing for example a waterproof coat with a hood to keep them dry. Please ensure that all your child/ren's clothes are named.

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, olives and grapes into 4 pieces lengthways** and foods like **blueberries in half lengthways** to prevent choking. It is also an idea to put a small icepack in your child's lunchbox to keep their food cold.

Term Dates

Term dates and important dates for your diary are available on the website throughout the year under the 'parents' area' drop down menu. Here is a reminder of some key dates for the rest of this academic year. I will give you advance warning of any future Inset days or Occasional days before they are due to take place.

Spring Term	Begins – Monday 5 th January. Half Term – Monday 16 th to Friday 20 th February Ends – Thursday 26 th March Easter Sing Along & Family Picnic – Thursday 26 th March * INSET DAY – Thursday 12 th February
Summer Term	Begins – Monday 13 th April Half Term – Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May Ends – Thursday 16 th July Sports Day & Family Picnic – Thursday 16 th July (weather dependent) * INSET DAY – Monday 1 st June

*Please note there will be no lunch club or afternoon session after our Easter sing along and Sports Day event.

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.

Parent 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.

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 have a Library system which gives you the opportunity to borrow books, jigsaws and games 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 is updated regularly with news and information.

PTFA Facebook Page and WhatsApp Group

Please remember to join our PTFA 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 PTFA often put important and relevant information and notices on there. If you'd like to join the WhatsApp group, please message Laura (Chair) on 07539 314472 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 pack of Pom Bears to share with all the children on the day.

Kind Regards,

Lorraine Robinson (Manager)