



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

September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome back all our existing parents and welcome all the parents who are going to be joining us at Preschool this term.

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

Inset Day / 'Meet and Greet' and 'Stay and Play'

Just a reminder that preschool will be closed for an Inset day on Monday 2nd September however, we are open for our Red group 'Meet and Greet' and our 'Stay and Play' session (to which everyone is welcome) in the main room and Rainbow room from 10am – 12pm. I will give you advance warning of any future Inset days or Occasional days before they are due to take place.

Preschool starts back on Tuesday 3rd September for the main room children and the Red group children.

Rainbow room children will start the week commencing Monday 9th September.

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.**

Bells On Gates

We have had 2 bells installed on the iron gates that lead into the garden. From now on the padlocks will be always on the gates during preschool hours so if you need to enter the premises for any reason, please ring the bell and a member of staff will come out and help you.

Extra Days

If you would like to increase your child/ren's sessions this year, please could you email me and let me know.

Clothing

Please may I remind you to name all your children's clothing.

Parent's Notice Board

Please remember to take the time to have a look at the parent's notice board which is situated on the wall to the left of the white front door as myself and the PTA will keep it updated with any relevant information.

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.

Lunch Club

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.

We have always offered a healthy snack during the morning session, and we would like to continue this practice during lunch club also. Therefore, we are continuing 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 either. Lastly, now the weather is getting hotter it might be 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.

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 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 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.

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 07896754757 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. However, this might not be after every session your child attends as its important the staff spend time just playing with the children. Please check your child's journal regularly and add a comment when you receive an observation, photo or video. At the end of the observation the Key person will write what they are going to be working on next with your child/ren, so you can work on this at home too. We would also like you to add photos and videos of the things your child/ren do outside of Preschool, so we can then show them on our Interactive whiteboards and your child/ren can share their experiences with their friends. It will also enable you and your child's key person to work closely in partnership together to provide the best support for your child/ren. 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.

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.

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 one multipack of Pom Bears to share with all the children on the day.

Kind regards

Lorraine Robinson