

# Oakley Pre-School

## Autumn Term 2021 Newsletter



### Welcome back to the Autumn Term!

We are pleased to welcome everyone back to Pre-school for the start of the Autumn Term.

We would also like to welcome our new children and parents starting pre-school for the first time. The new starters came for a drop-in session on Friday 3rd September. All the children had a lovely time playing inside and outside and settled in well.

*Can we please ask that all parents please read carefully all sections in this newsletter as due to the Coronavirus and in accordance with government guidance we still have some changes to the running and daily activities of the Pre-school. All these changes will be reviewed regularly and changed/ reinstated in due course.*

### Sound of the Week

We are continuing to feature a letter sound of the week, to help with literacy development. The letter sounds for each week can be found on **famly**. In line with our COVID-19 requirements please note that **items are NOT ALLOWED** to be brought into Pre-school for the time being.

### Parent Partnership

Communication is the key to a successful partnership between parents and pre-school and we do our best to ensure that we have good lines of communication. Our priority is face to face communication, but due to COVID-19, this is not always possible and we are in the process of moving most of our communication to **famly**.

This is a software application specifically designed for Early Years settings. We are now using **famly** for daily attendance, invoicing and communicating with parents/carers, observations and assessments of the children. If you have any queries or problems using this app please contact us. **New starters will receive their log in invitation this week.**

Please email any items or concerns you would normally raise with your child's Key person via the Pre-school email or using **famly**.

We have a **Facebook** page so please 'like' that to follow us on Facebook. The Pre-school website is also update regularly.

Any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Pre-school via phone, email or **famly**.

## "Eggcellent" Board

Pre-school has an "eggcellent board" on display in the Vestry for which we have previously asked parents/carers to use to let us know of anything that your children have done that they are proud of. As parents/carers are not



permitted to enter Pre-school at the current time we would like to ask for any **'WOW' moments to be messaged** into Pre-school via a 'new observation' on **family®**

We will talk about the child's "WOW" moment through the session with the children.

## Lunch Club



Please note that **lunch boxes MUST be made of plastic** that can be washed thoroughly every day. No material lunch bags will be allowed to be brought in.

We have children attending pre-school with serious nut allergies. Please **do not** send your child with any products containing nuts, such as, peanut butter, cereal bars etc. Please also refrain from giving your child products containing nuts immediately prior to coming into Pre-school.



Please refer to the attached link [Change4Life](#) for healthy lunch box ideas.



Could you please ensure that any grapes, cherry tomatoes or mini sausages etc are cut in half **lengthways** to avoid them being a choking hazard. Please also **do not** send in 'leftovers' that contain meat or cheese, as we are unable to reheat them at pre-school.

Could you please be mindful when packing your child's lunch box. We are finding that there is a lot of plastic waste and due to the current concerns regarding climate change we would really like to try and help even in a small way.

## Snack Time / Drinks

We have reintroduced rolling snack to pre-school this week. Pre-school will provide a healthy snack for mid-morning and mid-afternoon. There will be a nominal charge for this and you will be invoiced for this termly. Children will be offered and encouraged to drink water during the session. This will be supervised and offered in a sterilised beaker. **Water bottles are NOT to be brought in from home.**

## Outdoor clothing

The children will continue to use the outside area whenever they wish this term in line with our "Outside play" policy.



Therefore, please ensure that your child has suitable outside clothing (including coat and hat) whenever he/she attends pre-school. Our "Wellie-hog" under the canopy in the playground will be used to store the children's wellies and we would be grateful if you could leave a pair of **named wellies** at pre-school for the duration of the term.

Although we are now into the autumn term, our sun protection policy still applies. Therefore please refer to our summer 2021 sun protection policy and when appropriate please ensure sun protection is applied before your child comes to pre-school and a sun hat is provided.



## Children's Work/Art Bags

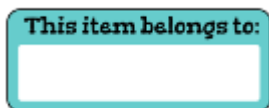
Due to COVID-19 requirements the reusable cotton art bags will not be brought in or taken home from pre-school.



Instead you will be handed your child's work from your pigeon hole which are now by the front door. Advice is for parents/carers to leave the folder/work for **at least 6 hours** in a car boot, garage etc before taking into the house to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

## Naming Children's Belongings

Please could we remind parents/carers to label all hats, jumpers, cardigans, coats and any item of clothing that is likely to be removed.



## Fund-raising Committee

Pre-school is run by a management committee, made up of parents/carers and volunteers.

The pre-school Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 8pm in the Pre-school Activity Room.

*In order for the Pre-school to run it is compulsory that we have parents on the Committee. We have had several parents leave as their child has moved up to Primary School. We are therefore desperate for new members. If you are interested in joining the Committee please let us know and if possible join us at the AGM.*

## New Build Project for Pre-School

It has been a long hard struggle, especially through the Pandemic, with the planning and preparations in which to secure the new Pre-school building in the farmer's field behind the Methodist Church.

If you have wandered down Chapel Pound during the holidays, you'll have noticed that groundworks for the building are now underway. The footpath to Station Road has been temporarily closed to enable the utilities drainage to be installed.



Please be aware that we are having large lorries accessing the new build site on a regular basis, so please do park thoughtfully near the entrance to Chapel Pound, at pick up and drop off times. As part of our ethos of 'Education for Sustainability' and 'Educating Social Responsibility', we do hope to encourage as many families as possible to consider walking to pre-school, when they can. Delivery of the bespoke eco-friendly modular building is still scheduled for November 2021 and so we look forward to moving into the new facility early in 2022.

The latest plans are available to view on our web-site. If you can offer any help or have contacts that you think we could use please let us know.



## Dates for your Diary:

Back to Pre-school : Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Sept  
**AGM : Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept**  
Individual Photos - 21<sup>st</sup> October  
Half term : w/c Mon 25<sup>th</sup> October  
Last day of Autumn term : Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Dec  
(PD Day : 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept & 1<sup>st</sup> Nov)  
(UK Bank Hol : 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Dec)

If you have any queries or concerns with anything at Pre-school, please speak to Sally Martiello.

Thank you for your continued support.

