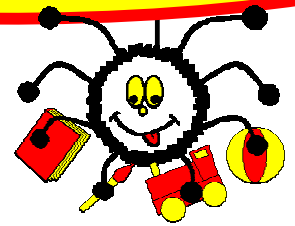


# Benson Community Pre-School

The Youth Hall  
Oxford Road  
Benson  
OX10 6LX

Registered Charity No.1045209



## Newsletter April 2008

### Term & Holiday Dates

<b>Term 5:</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2008
<b>May Bank Holiday:</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2008
<b>Spring Holiday:</b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2008
<b>Term 6:</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June - Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2008

### Dates for your diary

<b>Committee Meeting:</b>	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 08, 7:45pm at 3 Horseshoes
<b>Group Photo:</b>	Tuesday 10th June 2008, 9:15am

### *In This Issue:*

- ***What it Means to be on the Committee***
- ***Best Raffle Ever***
- ***New Website and E-mail Address***
- ***Early Years Foundation Stage Introduction***
- ***Writing in the Early Years***

### **Welcome Back Everyone!**

We welcome three new children to pre-school this term, Alex Benjes, Tyler Thomas and Rosey Davis. We hope they have a very happy and enjoyable time with us at Benson Pre-school.

### ***Ali Wood writes:***

I must admit, when I agreed to be Chair, this time last year, I had no idea what my responsibilities really were. I honestly thought it would just be a little bit of fundraising now and then. However, one year on, I realise there is far more to this voluntary role than I ever could have imagined. Believe it or not, the small group of parent volunteers that form your Pre-school Committee are ultimately responsible for running the organisation, managing finances, employing and managing staff, monitoring and evaluating performance, agreeing and implementing policies and maintaining the building as well as a **big** bit of fundraising to name but a few of our duties!

Your Pre-school Committee represents you, the parents and we are responsible for the quality of the Pre-school experience for your children. Please remember a large proportion of your committee also have paid jobs as well as running a home and caring for their families. We only just managed to reach our minimum of one third of all parents to form a quorum that allowed our AGM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April to go ahead. Thank you to everyone that did attend, I hope you found the presentations interesting and enjoyed the wine.

### **Committee News**

I am delighted to report that Suzi Clayton (Max's mum) has come forward and offered to take the position of Secretary on the Management Committee until the end of July. Thank you Suzi, it's great to have you on board. Goodbye and a big thank you to Megan Davies who has now moved to Cholsey.



Are there any more volunteers out there? Come September, we will be in a difficult situation re Committee members. Our Pre-school Constitution states that we need 60% of the committee to have children currently attending Pre-school. The good news is that most of the current committee will be staying in post. The bad news is that only 4 out of the 9 committee members will actually have children at Pre-school. **We therefore need at least 3 new committee members** to come forward and help us out particularly with fundraising in September (or earlier if you can).

Please note, as a general committee member, you are able to pick and choose when and how much you help. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the Pre-school Committee (tel: 824398 or [alison@woodclan.org.uk](mailto:alison@woodclan.org.uk)). The next committee meeting will be at 3 Horseshoes Pub at 7:45 on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Why not come along?

### **Development Plan 2008**

The Committee and Staff compiled Development Plan for 2008 has been updated and is posted on the notice board in the kitchen. The purpose of the Development Plan is to help us focus on improving our Pre-school through 2008 and aiming to score even higher at the next inspection. We want to offer the best environment for the children who attend Pre-school and for the staff who work with us.

### **Parent Questionnaires**

Thank you to all that completed and returned their questionnaires. We have summarised the findings and will be making recommendations based on your feedback. You will be receiving a letter soon from the Committee on this matter. Thank you to Alice Tharme for all her work on this.

### **New Website Address and E-mail**

We now have an updated website [www.bensonpreschool.org.uk](http://www.bensonpreschool.org.uk)

You can now also contact the Pre-school via this site using the e-mail link or by e-mailing directly to [admin@bensonpreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@bensonpreschool.co.uk)

Many thanks to Megan Davies for all her help in updating this site and to Suzi Clayton for offering to keep the site up to date.

### **New Computer**

Pre-school now has a new computer (the old one broke down earlier this year). Many thanks to the Jarvis family for their donation and particularly to Simon Jarvis for the time he spent installing the computer in the Youth Hall.

### **Summer Outing**

This years summer outing will be to Beale Park – date to be confirmed. Although biblical flooding is not guaranteed every year, we will have a wet weather back up plan probably to Snakes and Ladders or Jamboray. More information to be provided nearer the time.

### **Fundraising News**

#### **Summer BBQ / Pre-school Event**

Due to the lack of support for this event last year, the committee are looking for alternative suggestions for this year's event, which is likely to be held in July. Ideas will be discussed at the next committee meeting so if you have any wonderful thoughts on this please let a committee member or Lisa know or better still come along to the committee meeting yourself to let us know.

#### **Easter Raffle**

Wow, our Easter raffle this year topped all records! We raised £915, less £50 for ticket printing which gave us a profit of £865. Sarah Vaccari, thank you very much for your enthusiasm and focus in making this the **most successful raffle to date**. Main prize winners are listed on the Pre-school notice board.



### **Summer Play Scheme**

The Summer Play Scheme last year was a success and has been booked to run again this year. There is lots of planning in organising a scheme like this – any volunteers willing to be involved in a small sub-committee with Val Ward at the helm, let Val know as soon as possible (tel: 838361). Val would also be interested to know if you have any ideas/requests for activities.

### **Book Pledge and Borrowing Scheme**

Books recently bought with fundraising money to mark World Book Day (6<sup>th</sup> March) will be on display soon for you all to see. We are also planning to launch a book pledge scheme targeted at families whose children are leaving Pre-School in July this year. We will be asking parents to “donate” a book from our list to the Pre-school. Your generosity will be acknowledged on a label inside the book. On receipt of our Pre-school book bags, our intention is to also start a book borrowing scheme for the children. More details to follow.

### **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**

This year we have registered Pre-school to collect the Sainsbury's Active kids Vouchers. Please put your vouchers in the Sainsbury's box at Pre-school.

### **Starting School**

Those of you who have children eligible to start school in September 2008 will be receiving a letter soon requesting confirmation as to whether your children will be leaving in July or deferring entry to school. I would be grateful if you would return the reply slip promptly on receipt so we can do some planning for September.

### **September sessions**

For those children who will remain with us in September 2008, we are already planning our September sessions. This is the most difficult time of year to plan and finance, having lost so many children to Primary School and I am very keen to minimise the anxiety that this always causes. Whilst I realise that some people may not yet be 100% sure what sessions they would like, I really need an indication of the number of sessions you require, and the likely days you require them. A session request form will be distributed by Sheila Dillon shortly.

### ***Lisa Wells writes:***

#### **Our topics for this term are:**

Emotions and feelings 21st April-2nd May  
Rainforest and Jungle 5th May – 23rd May

During our emotions/feelings topic children will join in with group discussions on what makes us happy/sad, angry/surprised etc. We will also be looking at how others might feel. Children will take part in various craft activities such as making paper plate faces, cooking, painting and making collages.

The rainforest and jungle topic will bring in lots of animal discussions! Who will be the king of the jungle with a mighty roar? Children will learn about all the different kinds of animals that live in the rainforest/jungle. They will make parrots, face masks, look at patterns and sing rhymes and songs.

Please encourage your child to bring in an item related to the topic to share at circle time.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage 2008**

This September the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) becomes mandatory. It combines the birth to three curriculum guidance and the national standards which all early years providers will have to use. The six areas of the curriculum remain the same except for mathematical development which changes to problem solving. Our setting will develop activities that deliver the EYFS in such a way that best meets the individual children to enable them to reach their full potential. Our activities



will be based on learning through play and will be appropriate to the age and development of each child in the setting. Most importantly, we will have fun!

***Sandra King writes:***

Last October Jan Rees and I went on a Writing in the Early Years course. We came away with lots of ideas and practices used by other settings and some schools. We have introduced some to our pre-school...

**The mark making trolley** with drawers of pens, pencils, crayons, rulers, paperclips, old diaries, magnetic boards and letters. This trolley normally can be seen next to the role-play/home corner but can be wheeled to a table for a mark making activity. The children now use mark making with confidence in their everyday pre-school life.

**Portable writing bucket** with paper and chalk inside which we alternate with pens, pencils and crayons. Children love this bucket which has been seen on the back of a tricycle and hanging from a tree.

**Writing through role-play books** are resources that can be photocopied to help set up role-play area's. Using these, our children now have printed tickets for their train journeys, shopping lists and printed money and cheques for the bank and much much more.....

**Story making without books** encouraging children's imagination and the use of descriptive language ready for their own story making.

**Reminders ...**

Please remember to return any clothes that your child may borrow from Pre-school as we seem to have a shortage again!!!!

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Wishes

Alison Wood  
Chair

Lisa Wells  
Manager