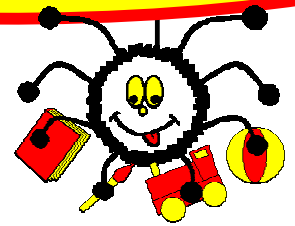


# Benson Community Pre-School

The Youth Hall  
Oxford Road  
Benson  
OX10 6LX

Registered Charity No.1045209



## Newsletter February 2008 Term & Holiday Dates

<b>Term 4:</b>	Monday 25th February 2008 – Friday 4th April 2008
<b>Easter Weekend:</b>	<b>No</b> Pre-school Good Friday (21 <sup>st</sup> March) or Easter Monday (24 <sup>th</sup> March)
<b>April holiday:</b>	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2008 – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2008
<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

### Dates for your diary

<b>Cake and Bake Stall:</b>	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> March from 9:30am onwards (outside the Pharmacy)
<b>AGM:</b>	7:45pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> April at the Parish Hall
<b>Committee Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March, 3 Horseshoes

***In This Issue: Ria's Departure and thank you, New Supervisor joining, New Vice Chair, Pre-school Development Plan, World Book Day and new Phonics sessions.***

### **Welcome Back Everyone!**

We welcome three new children to pre-school this term, Timothy Boddy, Summer Crook and Amelia Moore. We hope they have a very happy and enjoyable time with us at Benson pre-school.

### ***Ria Harding writes:***

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, the committee, the parents and all the children for all their wonderful comments, the beautiful pictures of me drawn by the children and the gifts that I received when I finally left Benson Community Pre-School! (Yes I have really left this time!) I have so enjoyed my role in leading the Pre-School, and having the opportunity to share and celebrate in all aspects of working within a thriving local community. I have some wonderful memories to take with me as I embark on my next adventure, thank you all for making me feel so valued and appreciated.

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

I would like to personally thank Ria for all her hard work and enthusiasm over the years she has worked at Pre-school. I have really enjoyed working with her and wish her the best of luck. I think we gave her a leaving do to remember last Friday!!!!

I am also delighted to let you know that Vanessa Woods (Emma's mum) will be joining us as Supervisor this term. Vanessa has an NNEB Diploma in Nursery Nursing and has previously worked as a Deputy Manager at Inglewood House Day Nursery and ran a Bramleys Nursery in Ardington. Welcome Vanessa, you are a great addition to the staff team!



### **Committee News**

I am delighted to report that Sally Brothers (Lily's mum) has come forward and offered to take the position of Vice Chair to help me with my duties! Are there any more volunteers out there? 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 Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March - All welcome to attend the general committee meeting - Dads included - just come along to see what it's all about!

### **Development Plan 2008**

The committee and staff have now finalised the Development Plan for 2008 and a copy will be posted on the kitchen notice board. We have jointly come up with 10 objectives to focus on and have allocated responsible people to each one (committee members and staff together). Our "good" Ofsted inspection last year is satisfying for all of us involved in this organisation. 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 and Staff Questionnaires**

Thank you to all that have completed and returned their questionnaires. If you haven't completed yours, you have until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> to return it into the cash box. We hope that the results of this questionnaire will help us to work together more effectively and ensure the pre-school is a happy and thriving place for staff and children. Feedback will be compiled on a summary report and discussed at the next committee meeting.

### **AGM**

The Annual General Meeting is at 7:45pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the Parish Hall (Coffee Lounge). We will be serving a glass of wine and some nibbles to entice you there! We need a **minimum of one third of all parents** present in order to form a quorum. Parents will need to re-elect the entire committee. Please do your utmost to join us as if we do not achieve a quorum on this occasion we will have to reschedule the meeting until we do. It should only take about 30 minutes and we will be drawing the infamous Easter Raffle on the night. You will be receiving your invitation nearer the time.

### **The Youth Hall**

Lisa Wells and a number of committee members attended the latest Halls Parish Council Meeting that was held in the Youth Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> February. We discussed the necessary improvements we feel are required to the building we rent from the Parish Council. A letter listing the improvements has been sent to the Parish Council. The next Halls Parish meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm in the Youth Hall. Please come along if you can - the more support we can demonstrate, the better our chances will be to get everything we have asked for.

### **Fundraising News**

#### **Cake Stall**

We will be holding our traditional Mother's Day Cake and Bake stall this Saturday (1<sup>st</sup> March) at 9:15am outside the chemist/greengrocers in Benson. We would like all parents, grandparents, friends and carers to bake a cake or savoury, which we can sell on our stall. Please bring your cakes to pre-school on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> or Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Feb or directly to the stall on Saturday morning.

#### **New Shop Front**

I am pleased to report that we have spent some of our fundraising money this term on a new shop front for the home corner. This should be with us soon.



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

We are also planning to launch an ongoing book pledge scheme and ask parents and members of the community to “donate” a book to the Pre-school. Their generosity will be acknowledged on a label inside the book. We will also be buying additional new books for **World Book Day** on 6<sup>th</sup> March and in term 5 (on receipt of our Pre-school book bags) our intention to start a book borrowing scheme for the children. More details to follow.

### **Easter Raffle**

After the success of the previous 3 years Easter raffles, we are repeating it again this year! This will be one of our major fundraisers for this academic year and will help us fund all the books and book bags we will be buying. Last year we raised a record £683, so lets try to beat this! Tickets will be coming home soon so please try to do your best to sell all your 20 tickets and ask for more if you need them. We have some great prizes again this year including a SMEG dishwasher, restaurant meals, gift vouchers and days out with the kids.

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

This year we have registered Pre-school to collect the Sainsbury's Active kids Vouchers. From 14 February 2008 to 4 June 2008, every £10 you spend with Sainsbury's will earn 1 AK08 (Active Kids 2008) voucher. In Sainsbury's Local stores you'll get 1 voucher for every £5 spent in store. You can earn vouchers at Sainsbury's supermarkets, Locals, Centrals and petrol stations and when you shop online at Sainsbury's.

We will use your vouchers to “buy” more equipment for preschool. For more information, visit the Sainsbury's website <http://www.sainsburys.co.uk/activekids>.

Please collect your vouchers and drop them into the box at pre-school. Lets try and get something for nothing. A member of the committee - Liz Copping - is acting as the coordinator, but was wondering whether anyone would like to give her a hand. If you're interested, please catch her at preschool or contact her by email [lizcopping@btopenworld.com](mailto:lizcopping@btopenworld.com) or phone 01491 832152.

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

Sadly at the end of last term we said goodbye to Ria, we wish her well for the future. This term we welcome Vanessa Woods to our pre-school who joins us as Supervisor.

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

Shapes; 25th February – 14th March

Growth/Easter; 17th March – 4th April

During our shapes topic our children will learn about shape within the environment, as well as building and making arrangements, selecting and naming shapes from a feely bag, matching and sorting shapes and when preparing their toast for snack, cutting 'shaped toast'.

We will be discussing new life during our growth topic; through activities we will be planting seeds, looking at budding trees. We will also be discussing Easter, making collages and paintings and hopefully have the vicar in to tell the Easter story.

### **Training:**

Mia has just completed her first assignment for certificate in pre-school practice, well done!

Val and Lisa have been on the second part of the new foundation stage training which comes out in September 2008.

Sally will be starting N.V.Q level 2.

As part of the new foundation stage we will be starting phonics sessions in Rainbow Room for terms 5 & 6, for those children who will be leaving us to start school in September. This will consist of planned activities using the letters and sounds pack.



**Reminders:**

If your child is going to be collected by someone other than those on the registration form please could you ensure it is written, signed and dated in the collection book on the desk otherwise we cannot allow the child to leave until it has been confirmed with a parent.

If you are unable to do your turn for parent help could you please arrange for cover by telephoning another parent on the parent help rota and swapping with them. There is a big impact on the session when we have no parent help!

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

Best Wishes

Alison Wood  
Chair

Lisa Wells  
Manager