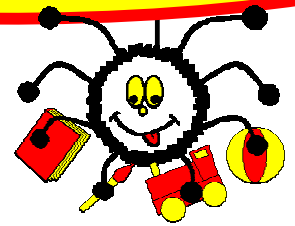


Benson Community Pre-School

The Youth Hall
Oxford Road
Benson
OX10 6LX

Registered Charity No.1045209



Newsletter January 2008

Term & Holiday Dates

Term 3:	Monday 7th January 2008 – Friday 15th February 2008
February holiday	Monday 18th February 2008 – Friday 22nd February 2008
Term 4:	Monday 25th February 2008 – Friday 4th April 2008
Easter Week-end:	No Pre-school Good Friday (21 st March) or Easter Monday (24 th April)
April holiday:	Monday 7 th April 2008 – Friday 18 th April 2008
Term 5:	Monday 21 st April – Friday 23 rd May 2008

In This Issue: *New Committee Members, Fundraising Success, Staff Training Information, Early Years Foundation Stage Update*

Welcome Back Everyone!

We hope you all had a fabulous Christmas and enjoyed the holidays, and we wish you all a very Happy New Year!!

We're pleased to say all the children had a fantastic time last term at the Concert and Christmas Party. Many thanks to all the children, committee members & staff.

We would like to welcome our new children who have joined us this term – Daniel Harmer, Connor Brogan, George Ford, and Noah Croucher. We hope you will all thoroughly enjoy your time with us at Pre-School.

Ali Wood writes:

Staff News

As you may have noticed, Ria Harding has not left us yet for Australia! Thankfully, she is available to stay with us at least until the end of January to give us a bit more time to get our new Supervisor in place.....

Committee News

I am delighted to report that Liz Copping has joined the committee and has offered to take on the Co-Treasurer position. In addition, Megan Davies has also joined as Secretary. Thank you to both for coming forward and offering to help! Are there any more volunteers out there? Please know, as a general committee member, you are able to pick and choose when and how you help. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the Pre-school Committee.
(tel: 824398 or alison@woodclan.org.uk)

No date has been set for a General Committee meeting yet for term 3. Committee only will meet early January to review finances and set budgets for 2008. A notice will be posted soon informing you of when the next general committee meeting will be. All welcome to attend the general committee meeting - Dads included - just come along to see what it's all about!



Fundraising

I am pleased to report that "Benson Pre-school Cooks" sold out completely before we even had a chance to sell it to the wider community via shops in Benson. This was a fantastic effort by not just the committee but also other willing parents that came forward to offer their talents and local businesses that covered our production costs. We raised just over £1200! I know there have been many requests for another print run but the committee has decided to move on with other fundraisers rather than divert efforts back to the cookbook and potentially lose money on producing more books.

Thank you also to everyone that supported the Christmas Cake and Bake stall. We raised £124! We also managed to raise more than £90 from the tombola, guess the weight of the Christmas cake (kindly baked by Ben Morgan's Grandma) and donations provided by parents for the Christmas fairy posters. Thank you all for your support. We have used the money to buy new paints and other arts and crafts equipment.

With 2008 just beginning, our focus once again becomes new fundraising and effort as we strive to balance the Pre-school books. We are planning a Mothers Day cake stall, more details and plates nearer the time. Other events currently under consideration for the first part of this year are an Easter Raffle or Rubber Duck Race and a summer BBQ/Pig Roast for parents/carers and children. If you have any other ideas please let me know.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in March, date to be announced. As a registered Charity this is a legal requirement and we need as many people to attend as possible. The meeting will only last about ½ an hour and we plan to serve a glass of wine or two to encourage you to come along.

Fees Increase

As previously mentioned, fees for non-funded children have been increased to £6.50 as of January. The committee will also be considering a change to the lunch club fees at the next committee meeting.

Funding Forms – Nursery Education Grant

You have already received your letter from Vicki regarding funding (for those children that are eligible). We would be very grateful if you would please return them urgently. If we miss the reply deadline we will lose our funding allocation.

Pre-School Sweatshirts and T-Shirts

Remember Pre-School sweatshirts and t-shirts are available to buy: T-Shirts are £7.00 and Sweat Shirts are £10:50 each. Speak to Lisa or Ria if you would like to purchase one.

Bookstart

Is your child aged 18 - 30 months? Have you collected their 2nd Bookstart pack from the library yet? This is completely free and contains lots of goodies including books and crayons all in a book bag. Pop down to Benson Library with your child's red book to collect it. Bookstart packs for our 3 year olds plus were ordered last term. Unfortunately, we have not heard anything yet. I will let you know when we receive them.

Lisa Wells writes:

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back!

Our topics for this term are:

Mini beasts: 7th January -25th January

Opposites: 28th January- 15th February



Following on from our Zoolab visit on 13th December, during our minibeast topic children will explore the world of bugs and creepy crawlies through a variety of discussions and activities. Children will learn about life cycles, investigate the outdoor area hunting for bugs using magnifying glasses, sorting and counting legs as well as craft activities such as making caterpillars, cobwebs, paintings and sponge printing.

During our opposites topic children will be making comparisons, developing and using mathematical language, children will learn about hot/cold, wet/dry, tall/short. Children will play games to act out opposites such as fast/slow, stand /sit etc.

Staff Training:

Although staff training is always ongoing, this section is new to our newsletter as we thought it might be of interest for you to know how much we value improving our Pre-school through training of our staff.

First Aid training: Sally and Lisa.

Communication, Language and Literacy training: Sandra and Val

Early Years Foundation Stage Briefing: Lisa and Jan

Sandra, as our Communication Language and Literacy Co-ordinator, has introduced an outdoor writing bucket which contains pens, pencils, paper and chinks for the children to use outside. In addition, Sandra has also suggested we have a writing trolley which is out everyday for children to self select from.

Mia is currently attending a college course to gain a Certificate in Pre-School Practice.

Lisa and Val attended the new Early Years Foundation Stage training which, when implemented nationally in September 2008, will combine Birth to Three and the Foundation Stage Curriculum together. Our Pre-school is likely to adopt some of the new concepts before September 2008. More information will be provided to you on this matter in the coming months.

Your Child's Progress

If at any time you wish to talk to your Child's Keyworker this can be arranged at a time that is convenient for both of you and appropriate with respect to managing safety within the Pre-School. Pre-school keeps a profile of every child that attends and this can be viewed and discussed with you also at a convenient time if you wish.

Clothing & Shoes

Just the usual reminder to please ensure your child has suitably warm clothing and waterproof shoes or wellies. We will be using the outside area come rain or shine so please provide a coat/hat etc for your child, please ensure your children's coats etc are **named** and that you take all your belongings with you at the end of each session as we are not the only users of the Youth Hall and therefore cannot be held responsible for items of clothing etc left behind.

Finally, we would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we will keep you informed of any relevant information or changes that occur throughout the term.

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

Best Wishes for 2008!

Alison Wood
Chair

Lisa Wells
Manager