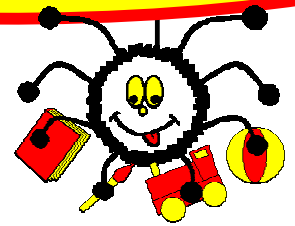


Benson Community Pre-School

The Youth Hall
Oxford Road
Benson
OX10 6LX

Registered Charity No.1045209



Newsletter June 2008

Term & Holiday Dates

Term 6: Monday 2nd June 2008 – Thursday 17th July 2008
(Leavers party on Friday 18th July only for those going to school in Sept)

Term 1 (September 2008): Starts Wednesday 3rd September 2008 – Friday 26th October 2008

Dates for your Diary

Group Photo: Tuesday 10th June, 9:15am
Committee Meeting: Wednesday 11th June 2008, 7:45pm at 3 Horseshoes
Cake and Biscuit Bonanza: Saturday 14th June; 9am outside the chemist
Parents Evening: 19th June (assuming we have enough participants)
Trips to Benson Primary: Week of 23rd June (for children going to school in September)
Trip to RAF Benson: To be confirmed
Pre-school Trip: Friday 11th July to Beale Park
Leavers Party: Friday 18th July (no session on that day, for leavers only)
Pre-School Fete: Sunday 20th July

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- ***Phonics sessions extended to all children***
- ***Parents Evening***
- ***Trips to Benson Primary School for Leavers***
- ***Summer fun events and visits***

Ali Wood writes:

Welcome Back Everyone!

As always, the last term of the academic year will be a busy one so please take note of all the fun events listed above. For 23 of our children, this is their last term at Pre-school before starting big school in September. We are organising visits to Benson School week of 23rd June to smooth their transition and will be sending them off in style with a Leavers Lunch on 18th July – more information to follow.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Lisa and her staff for fully embracing and implementing the level 2 phonics sessions we introduced in term 5 for all children going to school this year. There is no doubt that the sessions are very popular with parents and children! I am pleased to report that due to the great success of this pilot scheme, we will be continuing these sessions in September and extending them further to include all children within the setting. A letter explaining our plans will be sent to you soon. New this term, you will see “Webster’s Table” set up in the main hall which will be an adult led display table to be used at circle time concentrating on the letters and sounds we are covering in the Rainbow Room.

Committee News:

As this academic year is nearing an end, I would like to say a very big thank you to the enthusiastic committee currently in place. I can honestly say you are a fun bunch to work with!

Further to my plea last term for new committee members to come forward, we are still short of members with children attending Pre-school from September. We need **at least 3 new members**



to come forward to meet our constitution requirements! As you know, we have formed a fundraising team solely dedicated to raising money to sustain our Pre-school. Perhaps there are some parents or family members out there that would like to just get involved in this fun stuff? If so, please contact Val Ward on 838361.

Why not come along to the next committee meeting to be held at 7:45pm at the Three Horseshoes on **Wednesday 11th June**. I will be posting agenda items prior to the meeting on the Pre-school notice board, to give you an idea of how exciting these meetings can be! If you are interested in joining the Committee or would like a little more information, please give me (Ali Wood) a call on 01491 824398.

Session Allocation

As you can imagine, losing 23 children to school has a big impact on our numbers and particularly our finances, so careful planning for September is now underway. We are now finalising our September session allocations so if anyone would like to change or increase their September sessions please speak to Sheila Dillon urgently (01491 839853).

Fundraising News:

What have we spent the fundraising money on?

Thanks to the success of the Easter raffle, the following items were purchased with fundraising money from the Youngster's Closing Down Sale last week:

Wooden maracas, 2 large farm tractors & 4 small tractors, playmobile fire engine, a dolls pushchair, 2 large dumper trucks, large wooden alphabet floor puzzle, large dinosaur floor puzzle, 4 racing cars, 3 large dolls, set of 12 aeroplanes and jets, box of emergency vehicles, 6 sweeping sets (brooms, dustpans brushes), 1 football pop up goal, 2 footballs and a set of cars & quad bikes!

Webster's Pocket Money Trail

Please remember to return your Webster's pocket money trail which was our half term challenge. I hope you taught your child about coins along the way!

A Cake and Biscuit Bonanza will take place on Saturday 14th June from 9am onwards outside the Chemist. Please bring your cakes down to Pre-school on the Friday before or directly to the stall on Saturday morning then buy some back again! We are short of helpers once more. Please call Val on 838361 if you can spare some time on the day.

Benson Community Pre-School Tea Towel

Your child has contributed a picture to be printed on the Benson Pre-school Tea Towel. Order forms will be distributed this week.

Pre-School Summer Fete

The Benson Community Pre-school Summer Fete will be held on Sunday 20th July and will have a Transport theme this year. We are hoping to have the usual RAF helicopter fly in to join us and also lots of other exciting vehicles roll up on the day. There will be lots of fun games to play and Rosie Gardiner has also been booked to bring along her puppets and songs. We will be serving sausage submarines and flying sauceburgers for lunch and tea and cakes in the afternoon. We are also hoping to have a licensed bar and a live band. More information to follow.

Summer Trip

This years Pre-School Summer outing will take place on Friday 11th July to Beale Park. We will travel by coach departing at 9:15am from Church Close / Saxon Court end of St Helens Avenue and returning around 2:30pm to Benson. You should be receiving further information about the outing this week.



Summer Play Scheme

Once again, we will be running the ever popular Summer Playscheme at the Youth hall. More information and booking forms will be distributed in early July, but places are limited so do book early. Unfortunately, we have had no additional helpers come forward yet to assist with the organisation of this scheme. The playscheme is run entirely by parents and we really need your support, so if you can offer us your time it would help enormously. For further information, please contact Valentine Ward on 838361 or valentineward@onetel.com or return your Summer Playscheme form to pre-school if you are willing to help organise this event or if you have any ideas or contacts we can use.

Lending a Hand at Pre-School?

Research into the benefits of parental involvement in Pre-schools has shown benefits not only for the Pre-school itself but also for the children and their parents. Would you or a family member be willing to help us out on an ad hoc basis during one of the Pre-school sessions? Activities could include playing with the children, reading stories or just providing an extra pair of hands. I will be sending out a request form soon asking if you would be willing to lend a hand.

Book Pledge

If your child is leaving us at the end of July, we will be asking you if you wish to mark this occasion by donating a book to the Pre-School Library and thereby leaving behind something to remind everyone of the time your child spent there. Each book that is donated will have a bookplate placed inside the cover with the name of the child who kindly donated that book. A request form will be issued shortly.

Lisa Wells writes:

Welcome back everyone. First of all, well done to Sally Harris who has started her NVQ this week! We all wish you lots of luck in gaining your level 2 qualification.

The topics for this term are;

Our World; 2nd June-20th June

Water/summer- 23rd June-18th July

During our world topic children will learn about the environment in which they live. We will discuss different cultures, countries and climates and extend their global knowledge! They will also have the opportunity to get involved with craft activities and make displays. For this topic if you or relatives go on holiday please could you send or bring a postcard to Pre-school so we can discuss it with the children and make a display.

During water/summer children will learn about rivers/ oceans and the life living beneath them; they will make paintings, drawings and collages. Hopefully we will be getting a summer this year! With this in mind, children will explore sand collages, play "pack your suitcase" game and "dress the weather bear." We will also be encouraging the children to talk about their own beach/holiday experiences. Please encourage your child to bring in items relating to the topic to show at circle time.

Parents Evening

Following your questionnaire feedback requesting more communication regarding your child, I am pleased to say we are planning to hold a parents evening on the Thursday 19th June 2008 in the Pre-school hall from 7pm-9pm. You will have the opportunity to have a pre-arranged time slot to discuss your child's progress with their keyworker. Booking forms will be sent out this week.

School visits

The Benson Primary school visits by our Pre-school will be happening during the week beginning of 23rd June 2008. Children that will be attending Benson School this September will be taken up in



small groups during their pre-school session to visit their new teacher and classroom. Should you have any queries regarding school visits please speak to myself or Vanessa.

Warmer weather.....(Hopefully!)

A reminder to please put sun cream on your child before arriving at pre-school and to please provide a named sunhat hat for your child. Our outdoor space has very little natural shade, so both these reminders are extremely important.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Regards

Alison Wood
Chair

Lisa Wells
Manager