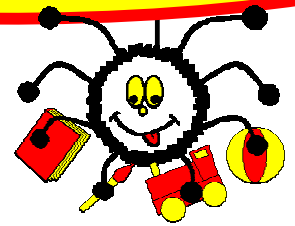


Benson Community Pre-School

The Youth Hall
Oxford Road
Benson
OX10 6LX

Registered Charity No.1045209



Newsletter Sept 2008

Term & Holiday Dates

Term 1:	Wednesday 3 rd Sept – Friday 24 th Oct 2008
October holiday:	Monday 27 th Oct – Friday 31 st Oct 2008
Term 2:	Monday 3 rd Nov – Friday 19 th Dec 2008
Xmas holiday:	Monday 22 nd Dec – Friday 2 nd Jan 2008
Term 3:	Wednesday 7 th Jan – Friday 13 th Feb 2008

Dates for your Diary

Committee meeting:	Tuesday 30 th September, 7:45pm 3 Horse Shoes, Benson
Individual Photo:	15 th October at 9:15am
Pre-school Open Day:	Sat 18 th Oct 10 -12 noon
Halloween Party:	To be confirmed

In This Issue: Management Change, Fundraising Success, Pamper Day, Improvement to Outside Area, Letter of the Week, Pre-School Open Day

Ali Wood (Chair) writes:

Welcome Back Everyone! I hope you all had a fantastic holiday and enjoyed the warm sunny summer that never arrived!

We have lots of new children to welcome to Pre-school – Ella Keith, Laura Hempleman, Lawrence Ward, Tillie-Mae Martin, Alissa Harris, Dominic Jarman, Macy Tame, Fraser Sharples, Felix McCormick, Isabel and Freya Nicholl and Nathan Gibson. We also welcome back Morgan Earthrowl. We hope you will be very happy and enjoy your time at Pre-school.

As most of you will have noticed, our Manager, Lisa Wells, has developed a large bump over the summer. Lisa will be taking maternity leave starting the middle of November. In addition, our Supervisor, Vanessa Woods has decided to further her NHS career and will also be leaving us as soon as we can find a replacement. We wish you both well!

For those of us left behind, fear not!!! We have been advertising locally and I am pleased to report that we have had a number of high calibre people in touch regarding our vacancies. Interviews are underway and we hope to be in a position to make job offers soon.

Committee News

For those parents new to Pre-school, Benson Community Pre-school is run by a group of volunteer parents who support the staff team. As a way of introduction, you will be receiving a copy of our Committee booklet soon that explains the role of the Committee and contains pictures and a story from each of us explaining why we joined and what we get out of it. Why not join in? It's great fun and you get a say in the running of the Pre-school! The next committee meeting will be held at 7:45pm on Tuesday 30th September at the 3 Horse Shoes Pub in Benson. I will be posting agenda items prior to the meeting on the Pre-school notice board, to give you an idea of what our hot topics are this term. 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.



Business Priorities

The Committee met over the summer holidays and reprioritised the Pre-school Development Plan. You might be interested to know that our top 2 priorities for this year are:

1. Staff Recruitment and Development
2. Working towards achieving an "Outstanding" Ofsted Inspection next time round

Full details of our updated development plan can be found in the Operational File and on the notice board in the kitchen.

Fundraising News

Many thanks to all the families and friends that supported our summer fete at the end of last term. The children had a fantastic day exploring all the vehicles that were on display including a bin lorry, model aircraft, vintage tractors and cars, fire engines and Mr Passey's bicycles! It was the most successful fete ever so I am told! This year, our event was well supported by the people of Benson and we managed to raise in excess of £1,350 on the day and with Grundon's £250 sponsorship of the event that brought the total up to over £1,600 for our Pre-school. Well done to the Pre-school Fundraising Committee for making this such a huge success.

I would also like to say an extra big thank you to the sub-committee members that organised this summer's Play Scheme and in particular to Val Ward who led the team. The sessions were even more popular than last year and I await details of the grand total of the funds raised.

Watch out for details of this terms fundraisers: a Pamper Day and the ever popular Cake Stall.

Premises Improvement

More than ever this year, our fundraising efforts are particularly important. Over the last 6 months, the Committee have been concentrating on trying to improve our premises and outside area. Committee members have been attending Parish Council Halls meetings to persuade the Parish Council to spend a bit of money on the upkeep of the Youth Hall. We are making some progress but it is slow!

We do have some good news though! Rev. Andrew Hawken and the Governors of Benson Primary School have agreed to collaborate with us on a new fence on the road side of the playing field. Quotes are currently being collected but our Pre-School will be asked to make a substantial contribution to the costs. We are also in discussions regarding the possibility of the Pre-school having its own fenced off outside area to provide a safer and more simulating environment for the children to play in. We will be submitting a Capital Grant Application later this year in the hope that our Pre-school receives some of the £7.8million that is available in Oxfordshire to improve premises and facilities in support of the Early Years Foundation Stage. I will keep you informed of our progress.

Photograph

A date for your diaries is 15th October at 9:15am. On this day, the Pre-school Individual and Family photographs will be taken. Children not normally at Pre-school on this day are more than welcome to attend to get their photo taken, however a parent or carer must remain on site with these children. Due to popular demand, once again this year, we will be having contemporary style photos taken.

Lisa Wells writes:

Welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing summer. Firstly I would like to add my welcome to our new children this term. I look forward to getting to know you all over the next few weeks.

Our topics for this term are:

My Family: 3rd September- 26th September

This theme encourages self-awareness and enhances learning about family. Children will have the opportunity to talk about their family during group discussion and through various activities they will



make a 'family book', paint family portraits and make a mini family tree. If there is a family member that would like to come in to pre-school to share a skill or read a story we would love to hear from you!

Bears: 29th September- 24th October

This topic brings in all sorts of bears! Children can bring in their favourite teddy bear from home to show to the other children. We will also be having a teddy bears picnic in the home corner and will be going on our very own bear hunt! Through discussion children will learn about and look at pictures of different types of bears, discover where they live in the natural world, make bear prints and collages and have fun with songs, rhymes and take part in story sack activities.

Letter of the Week

By now, you will have received a note from Sandra listing each letter of the week we will be covering in support of our phonics teaching. Please help your child with this learning by bringing in items that begin with the letter of the week to go on Webster's table for discussion during circle time.

Open Day

We will be having an open day on Saturday 18th October to give new and existing parents the chance to speak to the staff and committee and see what goes on at our Pre-school. You will be receiving an invitation to this event in the coming weeks. We hope to see lots of you there for a chat, cup of tea and a piece of cake!

Training

This term all staff are booked to attend the Early Years Foundation Stage training.

Sandra and Paula will hopefully go on first aid training.

Congratulations to Mia who completed her level two last term! Good luck with your level 3 course. Lisa will be attending some more S.E.N. training.

Farewell

Last term we said farewell to Jan Rees who has worked in pre-school for many years. We wish her a happy retirement, though we will see her from time to time as she will be popping in to read stories.

Reminders

For new parents and as a reminder to everyone else, here are some things to remember to bring each session:

- A piece of fruit for our snack fruit bowl
- A toy for show and tell circle time
- An item related to our letter of the week or topic covered
- Packed lunch if your child is staying for lunch club
- Coats now the weather is cooler. Please remember to label them as putting coats on before going out can become quite challenging!

I hope you all have a happy and fun term!

Regards

Alison Wood
Chair

Lisa Wells
Manager