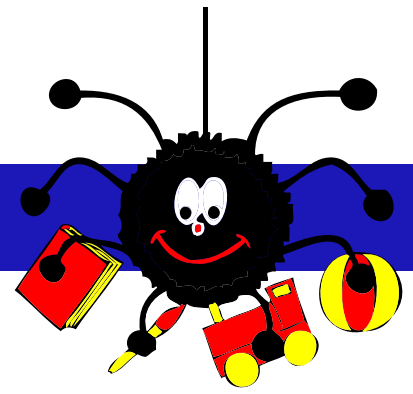


Benson Community Pre-school



Newsletter November 2008

Term & Holiday Dates

Term 2:	Monday 3rd Nov 2008 – Friday 19th Dec 2008
Christmas holiday:	Monday 22 nd Dec – Friday 2 nd Jan 2009
Term 3:	Wednesday 7th Jan – Friday 13 th Feb 2009
February holiday:	Monday 16 th Feb – Friday 20 th Feb 2009

Dates for your Diary

Pamper Evening:	Friday 21st November, 7:15pm, Benson Parish Hall
Christmas Concert:	Monday 15th December 2008, parents to arrive 11am
Christmas Party:	Friday 19 th December 2008, 11-1pm
Committee meeting:	Tuesday 13th Jan 2009, 7:45pm, 3 Horseshoes Pub

In This Issue: New Manager and Deputy, New Enclosed Outside Area, Pamper Yourself, Christmas Plans, a Note from your New Manager

Ali Wood writes:

First of all, sorry for the lateness of this newsletter, we have had a lot on our plate lately! All I can say is hold on to your hats; we have a very exciting term ahead! Christmas is also creeping up hence all the exciting dates for your diary above.

A warm welcome to our new children this term: Eleanor Adnitt, Max Walton-Cox and Sophie Jarvis. I know you will have a wonderful time with us!

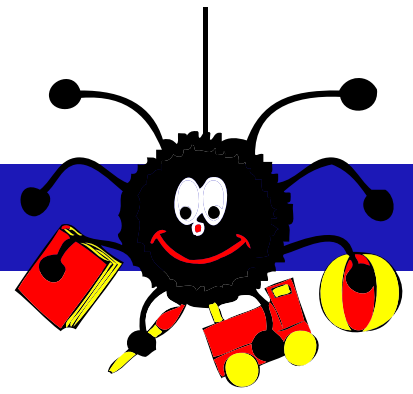
You might have noticed a new modern look to our letterhead format this term. Thank you so much to Suzi Clayton for designing this for us.

New Management Staff

First of all our big news! Cass Prior, our new Manager, starting with us on 3rd November 2008. I am personally looking forward to working with Cass and helping her implement some of the great new ideas she will be bringing to our Pre-school. She has written a little note at the end of this newsletter introducing herself.

In addition, as we said goodbye to Vanessa Woods at the end of term 1, we now welcome Sara Ogden as a Senior Assistant and named Deputy. Sara will be starting with us on Monday 17th November and will be working initially Monday and Friday mornings. Sara is a qualified teacher with a B.Ed Hons Primary, specialising in 3-7 year olds (main subject Science). She has experience of working in a primary school and in a special educational needs school.

Benson Community Pre-school



Please take the time to get to know our new staff; they are both full of fresh ideas and enthusiastic about joining our Pre-school.

Capital Grant Application

Our second piece of big news is that we have applied for the preliminary small capital grant available from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). Our application has requested money (£5,000) to cover developing an enclosed outside play area with a slide, planters, a pergola, balance beams, a play house and a metal shed to store our outdoor equipment in. We will also need to contribute around £3,000 ourselves, so please support our fundraising in any way you can, or even better why not give the Pre-school a donation towards the costs? All you need to do is write a cheque and put it in the cashbox! Please remember we are a charity.

Providing a safe and stimulating play area is a big part of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The fenced area we are talking about would encompass one set of double doors (the fire doors not currently used) so that we can provide open access to an enclosed area for the Pre-school children to play in and would stretch up to the edge of the tarmac basketball pitch and over to the back fence. We have approval from the Trustees of the land, the Primary School and the Parish Council; all we need now is the money. We also intend to note our interest in applying for a large capital grant this month, which can be used towards replacing or refurbishing our premises. The good news is that the Parish Council are in agreement in principal with this plan for the Youth Hall. It will then be up to OCC whether we make it on to the short list after a full assessment of all the premises that have been proposed for improvement.

Committee News

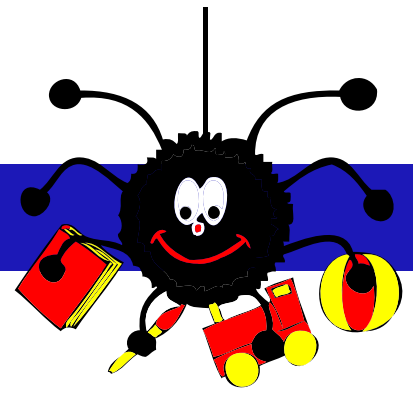
As always, we are desperate for new volunteers to come forward and join the committee to work with the staff to improve our Pre-school and also organise fundraising events. We are currently looking for people to take over the role of Secretary (responsible for taking the committee meeting minutes) as well as someone to organise the parent help rota. These positions are key to our Pre-school and we legally need a Secretary to have a Pre-School at all. If you are interested in joining the committee or taking on one of these positions, please let me know (Ali Wood tel: 824398 or email: alison@woodclan.org.uk) or why not just come along to our next committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 13th January 2009 at the 3 Horseshoes Pub to find out a bit more about what we do.

Fundraising News

Thank you to everyone that supported our Cake and Bake stall on Saturday 4th October. We raised over £100.

As you are well aware our big fundraiser this term is our Pamper Evening to be held on 21st November at 7:15pm in the Parish Hall. Lots of feel good treatments will be on offer including mini facials, massages, hand treatments, makeovers and reiki to name a few. You will also receive a free glass of sparkling wine and a bowl of nibbles on arrival. To make this event a successful as possible, get your friends and relatives along. It's going to be the talk of the village!

Benson Community Pre-school



Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert this year will be held on Monday 15th December at 11am. The session will run as normal but parents are invited to arrive at 11am to see the children performing. If your child does not normally attend on a Monday and you would like him/her to take part, please bring your child down at 10:45am prior to the start of the concert. Dressing up will be optional so you can choose your own costume (angels, kings, shepherds, reindeer, snowmen, sheep, donkeys, cows, Santas etc....) As usual, we will be serving mince pies and mulled wine after the concert, so please don't rush off! We will be collecting mince pies and red wine throughout December – all donations will be gratefully received. Please place them in the box by the entrance at preschool from the beginning of December. Something special made by the children will also be on sale, so bring your purse!

Christmas Party

The Christmas party will take place on the last day of term – Friday 19th December from 11am -1pm. We have booked Rosie Gardner and her puppets/props for the party, and perhaps Father Christmas will visit us with a sack full of presents! The committee will be preparing a party food lunch and drinks for the children. You will not be charged for this session and you do not need to stay unless you want to help.

Childcare Vouchers

A reminder that Pre-school now accepts Childcare Vouchers as a method for payment of fees - www.childcarevouchers.co.uk. Please contact Vicki Jarvis for further information at vicki@simonjarvis.net

Lisa Wells writes:

**The topics for this term are:
Rhymes and Stories 3rd November 08 – 21 November 08**

Winter/ Christmas 24th November 08- 19th December 08

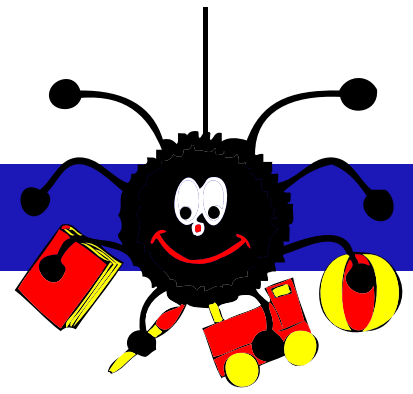
We start this term with rhymes and stories. Children will be singing well-known rhymes as well as being introduced to new ones. We will also be developing this theme by looking at rhyming words. We will be making clocks and talking about features of the clock, telling the time and linking this activity to the rhyme Hickory Dickory Dock. Children will make stars to support their learning of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. We will be using the story sack within the large group as well as small groups in Rainbow Room. Why not encourage your child to bring in a favourite storybook from home to share with everyone else at circle time?

During our "Winter" topic, we will look at the changes outside that winter brings - bare trees, frost, visible breath etc. Children will be making bird feeders and snowflakes, and we will also be discussing animals that live in cold climates and those that hibernate.

During the Christmas topic children will be making some wonderful tree decorations to take home, making collages and paintings as well as practising singing the songs for our Christmas concert. Look out for the song sheet to enable you all to practice at home!

Children will also be discussing the letter of the week on a daily basis. Please bring in an item relating to the letter of the week to share with us. Children will also be taking part in jolly phonics and silly soup games, and will also have the opportunity to use the computer on a regular basis.

Benson Community Pre-school



As always these are only a few examples of what will be going on. Please look at the notice board, as this will tell you what is planned in Rainbow Room each week or ask a member of the team who will be happy to explain.

Reminders and Goodbye

With the cold weather approaching please remember to bring in named coats/hats and wellies.

Fruit – Please remember to bring in a piece of fruit a couple of times a week for both morning and afternoon sessions. The children really appreciate this and it emphasises healthy eating. Our fruit bowl has been a bit empty lately.

As you will have noticed, I have a rather distinctive 'waddle' and a large 'bump'! I am due to have my baby in a couple of weeks time and I will be leaving this Friday to go on maternity leave.

I shall miss working with your children, but I am looking forward to watching them in the Christmas concert! On that note I would like to welcome the new staff to our team this term - Cass Prior who is covering my maternity leave and Sara Ogden who is joining us as a Senior Assistant (named Deputy).

Cass Prior writes:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all. I will be taking over the role of Pre-School Manager when Lisa goes on Maternity leave and I would like to give you a little bit of background on who I am. In 2006, I qualified with my Level 5 HNC in Early Childhood Studies with the University of Hertfordshire. My most recent position was as a Senior Area Manager for a nursery chain across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

In March of this year, I got married and moved to Watlington and I have recently commenced a BSc (Hons) in Psychology which I am finding very enjoyable, and I have a particular interest in Child Psychology and Criminal Psychology.

I am very excited about joining the Pre-School and have found my first week very enjoyable. I am greatly looking forward to getting to know all of you and working with you to make some positive changes to the Pre-School which I hope will help to provide an enriching and educational environment for all of your children.

I will be working every session from Mondays to Thursdays so please feel free to come and find me at any time if you would like to have a chat or have any questions.

Regards

Alison Wood

Lisa Wells

Cass Prior

Chair

Manager

Manager