

BISHOP CORNISH PRE SCHOOL
AUTUMN TERM
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1 2018

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back to our autumn term and a special welcome to all our new parents and children. We hope you all had a good summer and made the most of the sunny days!

This letter is to keep you updated with what your child is doing in pre-school and hopefully will answer any questions you may have. You will get one of these letters every half term, but remember you can come and speak to us at any time. This year our staff in Preschool will be:

Mrs. Soady-(Zebras) - Preschool lead
Mrs Stokesbury-(Snakes) - deputy
Mrs Dark-(Giraffes)
Mrs Stanley-Savage-(Monkeys) and 1:1 work
Mrs Elford-Lunchtime supervisor

Your child will have a key worker who will work carefully with your child on their personal development and learning. Over the next couple of weeks they will be getting to know what your child is like and forming an initial assessment of them. Each key worker group has a special group name which is written above. They will also write reports on your child's progress, keep their tapestry learning journal up to date and speak to you at the key worker meetings which are held each term. Key worker groups have been posted on Tapestry and are also up in Preschool. During next term you will be given an opportunity to meet with them to discuss your child's progress. Also if your child was with us previous to September 2018, their key worker may have changed in order to accommodate staff changes, changes in session days and the new intake, however all staff members know all the children well and will contribute observations to their online learning journeys.

Our work

Each week there will be a sheet by the door telling you what we will be doing and playing so that you can support your child at home. We will also have a weekly challenge that you may like to do with your child.

We will be starting this half term by thinking about 'Wonderful Me'. We will be encouraging the children to talk about themselves and their families. The children will be making representations of their faces in many different ways for example playdough, collage, using clay in the woods and natural materials. We will also be thinking about rules and learning about how to behave at Pre-school. They will be making lots of new friends. We will be discussing what makes us unique and celebrating our differences. We will be talking about feelings and using stories to understand how others may feel. We will also be exploring our emotions and making a display that reflects what we have been learning at preschool.

We will be thinking about sounds in our environment and working hard on our listening skills. The children will also be working on recognising their names. Outside we will be mark making in the sand and with chalk. As we play we will be counting and singing lots of number rhymes and songs. We will be thinking about colours in our environment. In the outdoor play areas we will practise controlling our movements and making different movements. We will continue to work hard on being independent and doing things for ourselves. In the woods activities will include collecting

wood to make a camp fire, making clay faces on trees, building dens, toasting marshmallows and enjoying a hot chocolate drink on cold days.

Each week we will be focusing on a different letter sound and children are welcome to bring in objects that start with that sound. The letters will be as follows:

Week beginning 17th September - m

Week beginning 24th September - m and a

Week beginning 1st October - a and s

Week beginning 8th October - s and d

Week beginning 15th October - d and t

In maths we will be counting and recognising numbers extending this as needed.

At home

To help us at home this half term please encourage your child to talk about what they are doing at Pre-school. Also continue to tell us what your child is doing at home. If your child wants to bring in pictures or objects linked to activities at home, please give them to a member of staff. If you would like to add any observations of your own to your child's learning journey via Tapestry then please do since it creates an even bigger picture of your child's interests and achievements and provides us with a greater connection with them.

We will be displaying a weekly challenge for you to do with your child at home i.e. singing a certain nursery rhyme or finding things. Please join in with these and let us know how your child got on.

If your child is starting to write and draw at home please encourage them to use the correct pencil grip. If you are not sure what this is please see a member of staff. It is really important that when your child starts to want to write letters that they go in the right direction as this will help them as they progress through school. Again if you want any further help with this please see any staff member. We will be running some information sessions about how to help your child at home with this.

Register

You may have noticed that when the children arrive at preschool we are asking them to find their name on a peg and peg it onto the register card. This is to help them learn their names on a daily basis. Please encourage your child to recognise their name or even the first letter so we can assist them to put their name up.

We do also have a spotty box to put precious items in, i.e. comfort toys, which children bring from home. **Please discourage** your child from bringing toys to Pre-school as they often get lost which can cause distress. The spotty box does get emptied every half term so please also remember to take things home.

Funding forms

You will have received a funding form. We now need to record information from your child's passport or birth certificate to prove their date of birth. Please pass these to any member of staff and they will do this. If you have any funding queries, please see Mrs Soady. Invoices will be coming out over the next couple of weeks.

WOW tree

Our WOW tree is quite bare at the moment but as the term goes on it will be filled with leaves. Our tree is an opportunity to celebrate the children's learning and achievements. We will be hanging leaves on the tree which celebrate success and progress. You can also put leaves on the tree about anything that you feel your child has done that is WOW at home. We will leave blank leaves on the table for you to take home and fill in, please make sure you date and name them before you return them to us. We will then talk about the leaves at circle time. Each term the tree will shed its leaves and you will be able to see them on Tapestry as a record of your child's learning journey.

Suitable clothing

Please ensure that your child brings a coat to Pre-school every day and **that you supply them with a named pair of wellies**. The wellies will live on the welly racks outside and each child has a named space. Following the forest schools philosophy we **WILL** be going outside in all weathers so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for this and has footwear which is safe, as we will be exploring, climbing and getting muddy. We do have some all-in-one suits which we will use for forest school activities to go over children's clothes. **Please ensure all items are named.**

Events this term

We are going to run lots of events this term and hope the advance warning will help with planning for this

Stay and play - we will be having a stay and play session where you can come and engage with your child and other children at pre-school and see what they are doing. This will be on Thursday 27th September and Tuesday 6th November. Each half term this will be on a different day to give everyone an opportunity to be involved when their child is booked in at Pre-school.

Supporting your child in literacy and phonics evening - Tuesday 16th October at 6pm, this is an opportunity to hear how we will help your child develop and how you can support them at home.

Parent meetings - week beginning 26th November - This is an opportunity to meet with your child's key worker and celebrate their success as well as discussing any concerns.

REMINDERS

- **Please do not drive onto the school site to drop off or collect your child. This is to ensure the safety of the children as they come and leave school and pre-school.**
- Please ensure you sign your child in and out on the sheet in the entrance.
- There is a suggestion box in our entrance for any suggestions you may have.
- Please remember to put an icepack in your child's lunch box.
- Please name all items in your child's lunch box as this will stop pots getting lost.
- If your child has a mark on them from an accident at home please could you just mention it to an adult at Pre-school so that we do not think that they have had an accident here.
- Please label all pre school uniform
- If you are concerned about anything please see Mrs Soady

Please come and talk to us if anything is not clear or if you have any concerns. We look forward to working with you over the term ahead.

Mrs Soady, Mrs Stokesbury, Mrs Dark, Mrs Stanley-Savage and Mrs Elford

