**SUMMER HALF TERM NEWSLETTER**

** This half term…**

Our topic of ‘living and growing’ has been met with great enthusiasm from the children, who are keen to learn about how things grow and how to keep ourselves healthy. We have been getting our hands dirty to plant herbs (lavender, chives, rosemary and mint), cress heads, sunflowers and broad beans. We will keep the herbs and broad beans at pre-school to continue to take care of and watch grow. The sunflowers and cress heads were taken home to continue their lives in the children’s gardens/windowsills. We have explored healthy eating, exercising and taking care of the environment through a wide range of activities. Some highlights have been hearing all about the children’s likes and dislikes with foods then encouraging them to try new things and seeing/hearing that they have tried new things and liked them, our height measuring circle time to see how big and strong the children are because of the healthy foods they have eaten (and how determined they were not to be the smallest!), seeing the children’s delight as they walked out of the door with their fruit kebabs and being able to make use of our amazing new sandpit (Thank you Miss Clark, Rob and Dan for making this happen).

**Test and Trace in the holidays**

Although we are closed from Friday 28th May at 3pm until Monday 7th June at 9am, we still need to be informed of any positive cases of coronavirus, if any families are self-isolating due to coronavirus symptoms or have been asked to isolate via the test and trace service during the half term break. Please send Jo a message via the Famly app with the details. The staff will continue to take their twice weekly lateral flow tests over the holidays.

**** **Family photos**

At Pre-School we have a ‘Pre-School Family Album’ which has a page for each child to add pictures of their families. This is great for us to get to know them, for settling them and for engaging them in conversation. It would be great for more children to get the opportunity to add to the album so, if you haven’t already, please either send in some printed photos of your child, their family, close friends and pets or email some to us at [hello@newdigatepreschool.co.uk](mailto:hello@newdigatepreschool.co.uk) and we will print them off.

** .…****Next half term**

Our topics after the half term break will firstly be ‘Beside the seaside’ and then ‘On the farm’. This will explore a range of themes including:

* Sun safety
* Sea creatures and shells
* Sand and water play
* Holidays
* The beach
* Boats
* Pirates
* Farm animals
* Farm produce
* Farm vehicles and machinery

**** **Breakfast club**

Miss Stanford and Miss Johnson run the breakfast club everyday from 8am to 9am. It costs £5 per day and is initially only for our 3- and 4-year olds. Due to the COVID-19 guidance to keep wrap around care groups to a small consistent group, bookings must be made for each half term in advance. In order to request a space, parents will need to message the manager (Joanne Johnson) on the Famly app, requesting the days you require, and she will reply to confirm whether there is a space available for your child. Due to the required adult to child ratios, places are limited.

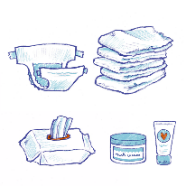
 **Pre-School books**

Please can you have a look at home for any of our books as we still seem to be missing a few. Thank you!

**** **Pre-School fees and changes in September**

A reminder that invoices are sent out half-termly. Fees will need to be paid in full by the end of each half term to ensure that your child retains their place for the next half term. In order to meet ever increasing costs we will be increasing all fees that are not funded to £21 per session for 2 years olds and £19.50 per session for children 3 years old and over. This will start from September 2021.

**ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY 3PM ON THURSDAY 27th MAY TO RETAIN YOUR CHILD’S PLACE.**

**** **Nappies**

As we have such a large number of children in nappies currently, it is quite a considerable expense for the Pre-School to cover. It would be much appreciated if those families with children in nappies could contribute a pack of nappies and wipes as and when you are able to. The sizes we use are 4, 5, 6 and 7. This will mean that we can spend any remaining funds we have on resources for the children.

**Bocketts Farm Trip – Monday 12th July**

**\*\*\*PRE-SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY 12TH JULY FOR THE TRIP\*\*\***

We are really excited about our day trip to Bocketts Farm. Please make sure you return your consent forms ASAP so we can make sure we have all the information we need before the day. A reminder of the arrangements:

**Arrival time:** 09:50 am at main entrance

**Collection time:** 14:30pm at main entrance

**Clothing:** Pre-School uniform, sun hat, trainers, light rain coat and socks for soft play

**Lunch:** A packed lunch from home clearly labelled with your child’s name

Thank you for all of your offers of help on the day. We now have all the volunteers we need.

** Swimming lessons and use of the** **school pool**

For our eldest children (our school leavers), swimming lessons in the Infant School pool will begin on Friday 11th June. These will be run by Carole Chaplin at 9.30am and will cost £21 for the 6 week course. Please return your consent forms and payments before Friday 28th May to secure your child’s place.

** Key dates for your diary**

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| Half term | Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June |
| Back to Pre-School | Monday 7th June @ 9am |
| School leavers swimming lessons | Friday 11th June times TBC |
| Progress reviews sent to parents | Monday 21st June |
| Progress review meetings | W/C Monday 28th June (via phone) |
| Day trip to Bocketts farm | Monday 12th July 09:50am to 2:30pm |
| End of Summer Term | Tuesday 20th July @ 3pm (Leavers party day) details to follow |
| Start of Autumn Term | Monday 6th September @ 9am |