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**AUTUMN END OF TERM NEWSLETTER**

**This half term…**

Since coming back after half term, the children have really enjoyed our ‘Winter’ topic. They’ve loved exploring the outdoors and seeing the changes in weather and the environment. They made some amazing firework spinner pictures whilst telling us all about the real fireworks they had seen. We have talked about the ways in which we can stop the spread of germs and how to dress well for the cold and wet weather. Our messy play activities have revolved around snow, rain and ice and this opened up lots of interesting discussions. The children were very excited when we had a visit from the firefighters, and they brought their fire engine. They let the children sit inside it, told them all about the equipment and even let them have a go with the hose! It was fantastic to see that the visit inspired their learning and imaginations with roleplay, junk modelling, drawing and talking about fire safety. Then it was onto preparing for Christmas with our very own grotto in pre-school, learning lots of Christmas songs and making some lovely craft pieces.

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**…Next half term**

Our topic after half term break will be ‘people who help us’. We are planning to divide the topic into separate weeks. These will be:

* Week one – Firefighters
* Week two – Police
* Week three – Doctors and nurses
* Week four – Vets
* Week 5 – Teachers
* Week 6 – Lollipop people and road safety

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**\*\*\*\* REMINDER\*\*\*\* Important changes to our session times from January**

From January 2020, the pre-school opening times will align with Newdigate Infants School’s Early Year’s timings and the pre-school will run two sessions a day, 9am – 12pm and 12pm – 3pm. Lunch will be served for the children from 12pm and hot lunches will only be available for those children doing the afternoon session or all day.



 **Ofsted inspection**

We hope you all received a copy of our recent Ofsted report in your child’s book bag and that you have taken the time to read it. We are very proud of all we have managed to achieve in such a short space of time and under a brand-new inspection framework. We appreciate those of you who took the time to speak to the inspector on the day – he told us some of the lovely things you had to say, and we were truly touched. The team is passionate about providing the best possible care and education for your children and we feel the report showcases this.

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**Pre-School Photographs**

We have been invited to join the Infant School when their professional photographer comes in on Tuesday 14th January. It is completely optional and those children who are not in Pre-School on Tuesdays are welcome to head straight over to the school (time TBC after Christmas break) with their parents if they wish to have their photograph taken. Those who are in Pre-School during the session will be taken over to the school by Pre-School staff. Please let us know if you DO NOT want your child’s photo to be taken

 ** Parents’ Evening**

Thank you to those of you that made it to one of our parents’ meetings. We hope you felt it was informative and worthwhile. We really appreciate the feedback given on the questionnaires and are taking all of your views on board. We are still waiting for some of you to hand them back in and would be grateful if we could have them back in ASAP. If anyone couldn’t make it and wants to have a chat about how their child is getting on, then please feel free to speak to us about arranging a convenient time to catch up.

**Pre-school Nativity**

Well weren’t they fabulous! Lots of hard work was done by the children to learn their songs and performance. Great job! We are all so proud of you and can’t wait to start practising for next year!

**Pre-school Christmas Party**

Our Christmas Party will be held on Thursday 19th December from 1 to 3pm at Newdigate village hall. Children who don’t usually attend Thursday afternoon sessions can arrive at the village hall from 1pm and parents are welcome to stay and helpers are welcomed. All children should be collected from the village hall at 3pm unless you have arranged with us to collect your children back at pre-school at 3.20pm



**New activity for 2020**

We are keen to encourage the children to share their experiences from home and we are going to introduce ‘show and tell’ time in the new year. They can tell us anything they feel they would like to share with the group and don’t necessarily have to have anything to ‘show’. We hope that this will develop the children’s social and emotional skills, particularly building on their self-confidence. It is also a great opportunity for us to learn new things about each other and practise our communication and language skills.

**Key dates for your diary**

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| Back to School for Spring Term | Mon 6 Jan @ 9am |
| Pre-School Photographs | Tuesday 14 January |
| Half term | Mon 17 Feb – Friday 21 Feb |
| Easter Holidays | Mon 6 April – Fri 17 Apr |
| Half term | Mon 25 – Fri 29 May |
| End of Summer Term | Tues 21 July |

