**AUTUMN END OF TERM NEWSLETTER**

** This half term…**

We are so proud of all of the children’s achievements this term. It has been wonderful to see them learning, developing and building friendships whilst at Pre-School. Some particular highlights have been all of the wonderful creations the children have made using different leaves we have found, making firework paintings, discovering which animals visit our garden at night by leaving out food and seeing their footprints in the morning, having interesting conversations about what we can observe as the seasons change and of course the fantastic singing for our Christmas songs.

Thank you for your co-operation with the one-way system, only one parent to drop off/collect and social distancing whilst on site. This will continue in exactly the same way in the new year.

 **Test and Trace in the holidays**

Although we are all taking a break for Christmas, the Pre-School will need to be notified of any positive cases up to 24th December but please note that after 24th December for all notifications of positive cases we ask that parents follow the NHS Test and Trace instructions directly. For children who have symptoms - when parents get a test result please contact the Pre-School to inform a) date of 1st symptom, b) date of test, c) date of result, and d) any known contacts who attend the Pre-School. Please let us know immediately after if the test result is positive or negative. Contact by email only please: hello@newdigatepreschool.co.uk and in the subject heading state: COVID. There will be a member of the senior team monitoring and following up those emails up until 24th December, but they will not be in Pre-School to take phone calls. If a positive test result has been received, the Pre-School will have to trace anyone who has been in close proximity during the 48-hour period before the symptoms were first noticed or, if no symptoms, 48 hours back from the test date. This only applies when the 48 hours coincides with a Pre-School day. Those who have been in close proximity will receive a letter by email and will have to isolate for 10 days and get a test if they develop symptoms. Again, those families should let the Pre-School know if this happens up to 24th December. Should your son/daughter contract COVID, or has to self-isolate due to close contact, after 24th December please let the Pre-School know when term starts again on 4th January, if self- isolation still applies and he/she will be absent from Pre-School.

**** **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 and we will print them off.

** .…****Next half term**

Our topic after the half term break will be ‘Fantasy creatures and Animals in Our World.’ We will use a range of activities to explore creatures such as; unicorns, dragons, dinosaurs, mermaids, minibeasts, farm animals, safari animals and fairies, to name just a few! We will use circle time activities, songs, messy play, arts, crafts, roleplay, stories and video clips to bring the children’s imagination to life.

** 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. We cannot have ad-hoc bookings at this time. 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 fees**

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. **ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY 3PM ON THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER TO RETAIN YOUR CHILD’S PLACE.**

** Christmas videos**

The children have been very busy practising some action songs for us to film and show you all. We have been sending these out throughout the week (depending on when your children attend) and you should all receive these before the end of term via the Famly app. Please keep these for personal viewing and do not share on social media. The Infant School have also been working hard to make a brilliant video advent calendar. We are proud to have been asked to film the Pre-School children singing to go behind one of the doors. Keep your eyes peeled as it will be posted very soon.

** 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 and 6. This will mean that we can spend any remaining funds we have on resources for the children.

** ** **Labelling belongings & winter clothing**

Please can we remind you that all your child’s belongings must be labelled with their full name. As the weather is getting colder and wetter can you make sure your child comes in with a warm coat every day. We spend lots of time outdoors all year round. On colder days, hats and gloves would be great too. We would really appreciate it if you could make sure your child always has at least one set of spare clothes each day as our supply is very limited. If you have any old clothes you could donate to our supply we would be very happy to have some.

 ** A brand new teacher at Pre-School!**

After a successful recruitment process, we are very pleased to welcome Mrs Strudley as our new Pre-School teacher. She will be with us from the 4th January and I know your children will make her feel really welcome. Mrs Strudley has over 20 years experience in Early Years and can’t wait to become part of our team. She will be with us full time so this means she will be looking after her own group of key children. There will be some changes to a number of children’s current key person and Miss Johnson will let you know if this is the case for your child. Welcome to Newdigate Pre-School Mrs Strudley!



 **Key dates for your diary**

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| End of term | Friday 18th December @ 3pm |
| Spring term starts | Monday 4th January @ 9am |
| Half term | Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February |
| Spring term ends | Thursday 1st April |
| Summer term starts | Mon 19th April @ 9am  |
| Half term | Monday 25th May - Friday 30th May |
| End of Summer Term | Wednesday 20th July |