**AUTUMN HALF TERM NEWSLETTER**

******This half term…**

Our topics of ‘All about me’ has been amazing at helping us get to know our new children and finding out new things about our older children. The children have learnt each other’s names, ages, birthdays, who is in each other’s families, favourite toys, books, games and foods. The introduction of our ‘Superstar Box’ has been wonderful as we can help the children feel proud of their achievements and they can share something they love with their teachers and peers. One highlight from this half term has been watching our children who have stayed with us since last year welcoming in and encouraging their new friends to join in and showing them so confidently the pre-school rules and routines.

** Termly assessments**

You will be receiving an assessment for you child via the famly app this week. It will detail our observations of each child’s learning and development so far, and more importantly, what we will be working on with them going forward for the next term. There will be recommendations for strategies and activities that you can try at home to aid your child’s progress in each area of learning and development linking with the EYFS. Please make use of the app and add your own observations from home to help with our partnership working.

**** **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 October half term break will be ‘Changes’. We will be exploring the changes in nature as we head fully into Autumn and then Winter. Furthermore, we will talk about changes that happen in us as we grow, materials, foods and colours. There will be lots of fun experiments and hands on activities to get stuck into! I’m sure you will hear all about it from your children after pre-school each day! From the beginning of December, we will be in full Christmas mode with lots of crafts, roleplay and singing to be had!

 **Pre-School Christmas Party Week (13th to 17th December) Christmas Show (Tuesday 14th December @ 09:15)**

As we don’t have all of the children in on one particular day of the week, we thought we would have a mini party for the last half an hour of every day on the last week! No need to bring anything in. But, the children can wear Christmas themed/coloured clothes for every session they attend all week! For those children that only attend mornings, we will have a mini disco before going home at lunchtime every day too! Our Christmas show will be held in the Infant School’s hall on Tuesday 14th December @ 09:15. Families are welcome to come and see and hear what their children will have been practising for weeks on! Further details of costumes needed will be sent home in due course.

 **** **Appropriate clothing**

As always, we would prefer that your children come into pre-school in uniform. This is an important step in preparation for school but it also helps them to feel like part of their own little community which is fantastic for their self-esteem and confidence. Most importantly, now that the weather is colder and wetter, is that children are coming into pre-school with a waterproof and warm coat and on particularly cold days a hat and gloves. We spend a lot of time outdoors and must keep doors and windows open for ventilation and no one wants to spend the whole day feeling chilly!

**** **Breakfast club**

Miss Stanford and Miss Johnson run the breakfast club everyday from 8am to 9am. It costs £5 per day and is for our 3- and 4-year olds. 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.

** Unwell children**

At this time of year, it is important for us to remind you of our policy on unwell children attending pre-school. If your child is well enough to play and be active without the need for medication then we would usually say that they are well enough to attend pre-school. Children should NOT attend pre-school if they have a temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or above and should isolate and arrange a PCR test as this is a symptom of COVID-19. Children should NEVER come into pre-school if they are being given calpol etc to relieve the symptoms of any illness. These medications can mask a temperature and whilst the child attends pre-school they could be spreading an illness/infection to others or they can become very poorly very quickly as the medication wears off. They must stay at home until their temperature is below 37.8 degrees Celsius WITHOUT being given any medication. A continuous cough is also a symptom of COVID-19 and children should isolate and arrange a PCR test if they have this type of cough. Vomiting and diarrhoea occurrences require children to stay away from the setting until at least 48 hours from the last bout. Any new rashes or spots need to be diagnosed by a doctor/pharmacist before attending pre-school. It is always best to send us a message to discuss your child’s symptoms before sending them in if you are ever in doubt that they are well enough to attend.

 **Pre-School books**

If your child has read the book they took home, please can you encourage them to put it into the book box outside before they come in. This way we can be sure that it has been read and they need to choose a new one. It is also a great little step to becoming more independent and thinking for themselves.

**** **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. If your child is turning 3 years old before 31st December 2021 they will be eligible for their universal 15 hours of funding from January 2022. Some families may be eligible for the extended 30 hours entitlement if they meet certain criteria. Please take a look here to find out more and apply (please pay close attention to the deadline dates for applications): <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

**ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY 3PM ON THURSDAY 21ST OCTOBER 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.

** Pre-Loved toys, books and dressing up**

If you happen to be having a clear out over the summer holidays and have any good quality toys, books and dressing up clothes then please send us a message to see if we can make use of it as we always in need of new resources. Thank you!

** Key dates for your diary**

 **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AS THEY ARE NOT THE SAME DATES AS THE INFANT SCHOOL (this is due to Surrey County Council funding dates)**

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| **End of half term**  | Friday 22nd October @ 3pm  |
| **Half term** | Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October |
| **Back to Pre-School** | Monday 1st November @ 9am |
| **Pre-School Christmas Party Week** | Monday 13th December to Friday 17th December |
| **Pre-School Christmas Show** | Tuesday 14th December @ 9:15am |
| **End of term** | Friday 17th December @ 3pm |
| **Pre-School Inset day (PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED)** | Thursday 6th January  |
| **Back to Pre-School** | Friday 7th January 2022 @ 9am |
| **Half term**  | Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February |
| **Back to Pre-School** | Monday 21st February @ 9am |
| **End of term** | Friday 1st April @ 3pm |
| **Back to Pre-School**  | Tuesday 19th April @ 9am |
| **Half term**  | Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June |
| **Back to Pre-School** | Monday 6th June @ 9am |
| **End of term**  | Friday 22nd July @ 3pm |