**SUMMER END OF TERM NEWSLETTER**

 **….This half term**

Our topic this half term has been ‘Amazing animals’. We have explored different types of animals, their habitats, characteristics and diets. We have had fun creating lots of animal crafts, paintings, salt dough prints and drawings. At MOLEs we looked for mini beasts and created butterfly symmetry pictures and clay bug figures. It was brilliant to hear all about and see photographs of your family pets too.

**.…****Next half term**

We will be returning after the summer break with some new families joining us. So, it is the perfect opportunity to explore the topic ‘all about me’. We will do a variety of activities designed to get to know one another. Photos of your families, pets and favourite things can be brought in to show and tell every day. Any developments over the summer break can be shared with the teachers via the app (you can add your own observations). We will be welcoming lots of new families to Newdigate Pre-School in September and we can’t wait to get to know them a**The superstar box**

We celebrate the children's successes and amazing behaviour by having a 'Superstar Award' for these achievements. They will come home with a superstar award certificate which will tell you exactly how they earnt it. They will also come home with the 'Superstar box'. Then, they will get to choose any toy, book, photo etc from home to put into the box and bring into pre-school on their next session to show and tell their friends about it. This is a fantastic way to link home and pre-school as well as promoting self-confidence and self-esteem. They will build the confidence to talk in front a group of their peers and share something they love with their friends. Most importantly, this will enhance the children's sense of pride in their own achievements and help them understand the importance of working towards a goal.

 ** Goodbye and Good luck squirrels (big children!)**

What a pleasure it has been to teach and care for our wonderful squirrels. Some of you have been with us for 3 years! It is sad to say goodbye but we know that you are more than ready for your next adventure at big school. Go and show your new teachers just how amazing you are.

******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.

**Appropriate clothing and Sun Cream**

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 getting warmer and sunnier, is that children are coming into pre-school with an **all-day sun cream already being applied**. We have sun hats at pre-school so no need to bring their own. **Please no crocs or flip flops** as the children cannot run around safely in these.

 **School pool use**

The school pool will be available for hire during the summer holidays. Please use this link to book your slot: <http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofnewdigateschool>

**** **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.

** After School Club**

The option of after school club may be available at any time in the future if the numbers grow so please send Jo a message or talk to us in person if you would like your child to attend. Days will be subject to demand.

 **Pre-School Uniform**

Due to increased prices from our supplier we will need to increase the cost of the t-shirts to £6.50 and hoodies to £11 from September. Please message Jo on the app to order any more uniform.

** Unwell Children**

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 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. If your child tests positive for coronavirus then they should stay at home for at least 3 days. 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 including increase 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. Due to rising costs we are needing to increase the fees for paid for sessions to £22.50 per session starting from September 2022. If your child is turning 3 years old before 31st August 2022 they will be eligible for their universal 15 hours of funding from September 2022. If your child is turning 3 years old before 31st December 2022 then they will be for their universal 15 hours of funding from January 2023. 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 JULY 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 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!

 **Prompt collection**

A polite reminder that our sessions finish at 12pm or 3pm. We are full and cannot let children into pre-school until others are collected at 12pm and our staff have many jobs to be getting on with when we close at 3pm. Please remind anyone else that collects your children that they must be on time for collection. If you know you are going to be late, a phone call is much appreciated. 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)\*\*\***

**\*\*\*NEW SPRING TERM START DATE DUE TO FUNDING DAY ALLOCATION\*\*\***

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| **Pre-School graduation and party (for school leavers)** | Thursday 21st July approximately 9:30 – 11 am |
| **End of term**  | Friday 22nd July @ 3pm |
| **Pre-School Inset day (Pre-School closed)** | Thursday 1st September  |
| **Pre-School Inset day (Pre-School closed)** | Friday 2nd September |
| **Back to Pre-School**  | Monday 5th September @ 9am |
| **Pre-School Inset day (Pre-School closed)** | Friday 21st October |
| **Half term** | Monday 24th to Friday 28th October |
| **Back to Pre-School** | Monday 31st October @ 9am |
| **End of term** | Friday 16th December @ 3pm |
| **Christmas holidays** | Monday 19th December to Wednesday 4th January |
| **Back to Pre-School** | Monday 9th January 2023 @ 9am  |
| **Half term**  | Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February |
| **Back to Pre-School**  | Monday 20th February @ 9am |
| **End of term**  | Friday 31st March @ 3pm  |
| **Back to Pre-School**  | Monday 17th April @ 9am |
| **Half term**  | Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June |
| **End of term**  | Friday 21st July 2023 @ 3pm  |

