

Codicote Pre-School
St Giles Parish Centre
Bury Lane
Codicote, Hitchin
Hertfordshire. SG4 8XX



Tel. 07542 285412

20th February 2017.

Dear Parents/Carers



.....to the second half of the Spring term. I hope you all had a wonderful half term break.

We also welcome Annabel Breadin to the Pre-School team, she will be working 5 mornings and Thursday lunch club. Annabel is level 3 qualified and has worked in a local Pre-School as a keyworker for the last eight years. Annabel will settle in this half term without any key children so all children will keep their current keyworker. I'm sure you will make her feel very welcome.

I try to only send out one main letter every half term so consequently it tends to be quite a long one!!!! Please read it all, as it contains important information for you and your child and you may need to refer to it later on.



The topics that we will be covering this half term are Stories & Books, Space & Technology, Mother's Day and Easter. Details of topics, activities, reminders for the interest wall and any other relevant information will be placed on our two notice boards which are outside the entrance door on the wall and in the entrance hall to the left of the door. Weekly notices are also placed on the outdoor whiteboard – please keep an eye on these.

We will be continuing to teach the children sign language this term and the 'sign of the week' will be posted on the outdoor whiteboard. We will also be focusing on a letter of the week, teaching the children the phonic sound of the letter and going over what words start with that letter.

We have an 'interest wall' where we display pictures based on the topic of the week. Please send any pictures you may have, in with your child for us to display.

The themes for the interest wall this half term are:

- W/C: 20/2 – Stories & Books.
- W/C: 27/2 – Stories & Books.
- W/C: 6/3 – Space & technology.
- W/C: 13/3 – Space & technology.
- W/C: 20/3 – Mother's Day.
- W/C: 27/3 – Easter.



I now post updates and reminders on the Pre-School's Facebook page – Please 'like' us.

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School Closure

We do not take the decision to close Pre-School lightly but there may be occasions such as adverse weather conditions where we do need to close. **If, due to snow/adverse weather Codicote School closes, we also will close.** In the event of Pre-School having to close due to bad weather etc... Herts County Council have put all settings onto their website which I will contact. Therefore in the event of snow etc.... please look at: www.hertsdirect.org/eycclosures All schools are listed alphabetically and it will state whether we are open or closed. I will also endeavour to send out an email to you all, update the website and Facebook page. All this obviously relies on the internet working ☺

If closure is due to other circumstances beyond our control e.g. no water etc... We will follow our own guidelines rather than Codicote School's as their circumstances may be different.



Codicote Pre-School is run as a non profit making charity and any help you can give is greatly appreciated. Each week we are now providing over 120 healthy and nutritious snacks to the children including a variety of fruit, cheese, crackers and breadsticks. Therefore please can the parents of the children who receive free sessions due to the 2 & 3 year old grant consider giving a voluntary weekly contribution of £1 to cover the cost of providing snack for the children. There will be a pot for this on the hatch. Many thanks.



We have story sacks and Buggy Buddies in a 'library' that we are able to lend to you to read to/play with your children. Ideally the lending period would be Monday to Friday or Friday to Monday (but I know this cannot always be the case depending on the days the children attend).

The story sacks are: Mrs Honey's Hat, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Bad Tempered Ladybird and Owl Babies. These all come with the story and various props.

The Buggy Buddies are: Baxter the Bee, Breeze the Butterfly, Luna the Ladybird, Pipo the Ant, Poncho the Caterpillar & Webster the Spider. These all come with a soft toy and activity cards.

If you wish to borrow any of these, please ask.



As many of you will be aware, Codicote Pre-School is a registered charity. We have not changed our fees for the past 5 years, however, to align with current government funding recommendations we will be increasing our fees as effective of the term beginning 18th April 2017.

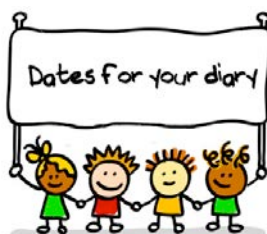
The new fees are Mornings 9.25-12.25 @ £14.50, Lunch club 12.30 – 1.15 @ £3.70 and afternoons 1.15 – 3.45 @ £12.

We appreciate your cooperation with this. If you wish to contact the committee please feel free to email Jo Eames at codicotepscommittee@gmail.com.

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- Monday 20th February – Pre-School re-opens after half term.
- Thursday March 2nd – World Book Day – Children can come to Pre-School dressed as their favourite book character (if they want to).
- Friday 17th March – deadline for Nursery applications for September 2017/January 2018 intake.
- Friday 24th March – Red Nose Day – Children can come in dressing up clothes in exchange for a small donation to Comic Relief.
- Tuesday 28th March – consultation evening, Louise and Becky (letter to follow).
- Wednesday 29th March – consultation evening, Sharon, Jan & Martine (letter to follow)
- Friday 31st March – last day of the Spring term.
- Tuesday 18th April - Pre-School induction day for Summer term new starters only.
- Wednesday 19th April – Pre-School opens for everyone.



As well as our 5 mornings a week, we are now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Lunch club 12.30-1.15, cost £3.70 and Afternoon sessions 1.15-3.45, cost £12. Please contact me if you would like to add any of these sessions. Children can attend all day i.e. 9.25am – 3.45pm. Any of these hours can be taken over the 15 hours free entitlement. These afternoon sessions are also available to any children who go to Nursery in the morning and want to come back to us in the afternoon.



As you know, Pre-School is a registered charity and as such, we have to fund-raise to buy new equipment and resources. This year the committee are organising a number of events and need your support so please help us out with these. I will send details out as soon as I receive them.



Due to changes in safeguarding policies, parents/carers are not allowed to enter the Pre-School whilst talking on their mobile 'phones. Please can you finish your call before entering Pre-School. This is to protect all the children from photographs being taken on mobiles and distributed.

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- Please can I remind you that if children are sick or have diarrhoea they are to be kept off from Pre-School for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Also if the children are prescribed antibiotics they are to be kept at home for the first 48 hours that they are taking the medication.
- If your child is away from Pre-School because they have an illness that is infectious, please can you let us know as soon as possible so that we can make other parents & carers aware. If your child will not be attending Pre-School through illness or holiday etc, we would appreciate a telephone call or an email, thank you.



- Due to burglaries from the church we have to lock the gate at the top of the drive at the end of the session when staff leave, therefore please can you leave promptly. If you want to stay later and drive to Pre-School, please can you park your car in one of the surrounding roads so that staff can leave on time and lock the gate.
- Please can all fees either be given to myself or staff at Pre-School. Please do not leave fees in the letterbox at the end of the drive as this is not 100% secure. Many thanks.
- Please can you remember that due to safeguarding regulations, drawstring bags are now not allowed in Pre-School. Please remember that as we share the building, the coat pegs must be emptied every day.
- Please can you remember to sign your child in and out at the beginning and end of every session and leave an emergency contact number for the morning.
- If someone other than yourselves and is not known to us, is collecting your child, please remember to write this down in our 'child collection book'.
- Book bags are available to buy from Pre-School at the cost of £3.50. Please can you put your child's book bag in the red box by the coat pegs.
- Your child's safety is our primary concern, therefore if you leave Pre-School when a member of staff is not 'manning' the door, please can you tell us so that we can lock the door after you. The children cannot open the door from the inside but it can be opened from the outside if it is not locked.
- Please can you ensure all coats, sunhats, gloves and wellies etc... are named.
- Due to the risk of strangulation, please do not send your child into pre-School wearing necklaces and scarves etc.

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On the hatch near the signing-in book there is a 'comments box'. Your views are very important to us therefore this is for you to give suggestions of anything you would like us to be doing or just purely a comment to tell us what you think we are doing well. It can be signed or anonymous.

and finally...

..... If you have any questions or concerns at all please feel free to come and talk to me at the beginning or end of a session and thank you for reading this letter.

Kind regards



Claire Bailey
Codicote Pre-School Leader