September 2018 Newsletter

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**Hello everyone!**

Welcome to the start of our new school year and hope you’ve all enjoyed the Summer!

First of all, let’s say a big “hello” to our new children- Hattie, Penny S, Elliott and Cecilia who are joining our morning sessions and Monty, Yunus, Lydia and Jenson who are joining our afternoon sessions.

I create a newsletter once a month which is emailed out to parents. Please take time to read it all as there will be important information included and sometimes return slips to be sent back. The newsletter is also on the notice board and on our facebook page ( see facebook section below).

This first newsletter may well include information you already know about, but it’s worth reminding you about various things and a good one for our new parents!

**AGM Monday 17th September 7.30 in Pre School**

As part of this meeting we will be selecting a new committee for the forthcoming year.

After some of the existing members are standing down, there will be places available for anyone who would like to join the committee. We have a committee of a maximum of 12 members. Any existing committee members who are staying with us will need to make it known to us that they would like to stand again.

We meet 3-4 times a year here in pre-school for a more formal meeting and in between (usually in the pub) for less formal ones e.g. to discuss fund raising events in more detail.

It is a great way of being involved with the running of our preschool and the fund raising events– if you would like more info- please do not hesitate to speak with me!

If you are unable to attend the AGM but would like to stand for election- this is absolutely fine.

Anyone who is interested in standing for election- please complete the return slip and return by Friday 14th September.

**Fees**

Fees from 1st September 2018 will be £5 per hour. So this is £15 for a morning session if not covered with the Nursery Funding and £12.50 an afternoon.

Invoices are issued at the beginning of the month if fees are payable.

**30 hr eligibility codes.**

If you use a 30 hr code-Please don’t forget to renew when prompted to do so by the HMRC. Please don’t leave it to the last minute, as some parents do experience difficulties renewing codes. If you need to apply for a code for next term- again please don’t leave this until the last minute.

More details about funding can be found on [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

**Facebook**

We have a facebook group- Addingham Pre-School Parents and Carers which is a private group for our parents and carers only. It is used for reminders, important info, fund raising events and also at the end of each week I put up a resume of the weeks activities telling you what we have been up to!

If you are not yet part of this group and use facebook, please search for us and request to join!

If you aren’t a facebook user, I will still keep you up to date with matters in other ways.

Talking about fb……staff do get from time to time friendship requests from parents with children attending our setting- which is very nice! Whilst we would like to be fb friends with you all- it is not deemed good practice until after the child has left us. However, there are parents that each of us are already became “friends” with prior to their child commencing with us and this is absolutely fine.

**Curriculum**

We run learning themes throughout the year. Most of these are weekly themes but there are also 2 weekly themes now and again.

Each month we will advise you of the themes for that month. This month:

Week beginning 4th September Settling in and friendships

Week beginning 10th September As above

Week beginning 17th September Vegetables

Week beginning 24th September Fruit

We will be having a visit from Elizabeth and Pyjama Drama during the session on Wednesday 19th Sept for our morning children

She will run a short session on the theme of vegetables. Elizabeth made a visit a month last year (mornings sessions only) and the children loved her. She oozes energy and enthusiasm in a session of pretend play. Plan is for her to continue these monthly visits throughout the year, linking the sessions to our theme at the time



**Information boards**

The small whiteboard near the water cooler will tell you at the beginning of each week what the weekly theme is and include some of the activities we have planned.

The larger white board on wheels will tell you each day briefly what we have actually done!

Then like I said above, our facebook page will give you a more detailed info about what we have been doing at the end of each week!

Hope you find all these helpful and informative.

If you have any items of interest you would like to bring in/contribute that ties in with the weekly theme – that would be great!

**Developmental Files**

If you have your child’s developmental file at home from before the summer, please hand these back in asap to allow your child’s Key Person to continue with it.

**Absences**

We will be following a slightly new procedure regarding children absent from Pre-School for whatever reason.

There will be a new policy adopted shortly- but the main things are:

Illness

Please phone or email us asap and before 10.00am for a morning session child and 1.30pm for an afternoon session child. We would also appreciate knowing what the illness is as some illnesses are reportable to Health Protection Agency and Ofsted, and some have various exclusions periods. In some cases we have to inform other parents that there is a certain case of infection/illness due to infection control or because of cause for concern for expectant mothers. Please remember that if your child has had sickness/and or diarrhoea- they cannot come back to pre-school until 48 hrs has lapsed since last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

Holidays, family/friends commitments, appointments

If you know of any dates in advance, please request to complete an “absence slip” available from either me or on the shelves in the foyer or hand in a written note stating dates and reason. If you choose to have a day off on the spur of the moment, then please ring or email.

Non- notification of absence

If a child is absent without notification, we will give you a call to ascertain a reason. We appreciate you may have just have forgotten to contact us. If you are unobtainable then we will attempt to contact someone on your emergency contact form or collection form. If eventually we are unable to ascertain the reason for absence from you or anyone else within 24 hours, we have to contact Children’s Services as in accordance with safeguarding legislation. Any child in receipt of Nursery Funding who has continued or reoccurring absences without reason, – the Local education Authority will be informed.

Our number is 01943 830450- thank you for your support and understanding.

**Updating Records and information**

It is very important that you keep us up to date with any details e.g. address, Contact numbers, email addresses, any medical info etc

I will over the next couple of weeks be asking each of you to just have a look at the Information and Consent form you filled in when your child started with us ( not the new starters as these should be up to date!) and check everything is still in order please.

Anytime after this, something changes please let me know.

**Accidents**

If your child has had a accident of any description outside pre school, we would appreciate you notifying us the next time they attend. This needs to be documented.

 If your child has had a head bump during the last 48 hours- we ask that they do not attend pre-school. This is because concussion can still develop up to this time.

**Snacks**

We would be very grateful of any contribution for snack please. If everyone could bring something just once a month that would be brilliant! Ideas would be: Fruit, chopped veg and dip, breadsticks, cheese, crumpets, bread for toast, malt bread etc. We endeavour to serve a healthy snack but we love to have any home baking and birthday buns and cake!

Please bear in mind that we have some allergies with children in pre school, in particular at the moment- nuts. Therefore no products with nuts in please.

**Fundraising**

We have fundraising events throughout the year. We do depend heavily on these fund raisers as we do not get any other funding apart from Nursery Funding and fees. With the recent decrease in the Nursery Funding rate, we ask that you support us in any way you can- thank you.

**Easy Fundraising**

During this last year, we have started to used this very easy way of fundraising and have raised lots of funds.

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

We would like to encourage every parent to use this page when doing any on-line shopping. Basically to get started- click onto their web page and register a cause. That is Addingham Pre School.

Then what you do, when you want to shop, log onto easy fundraising- (there is an app available for a quick link) then from there you input the shopping site you wish to shop from and it links straight to it and you just shop as normal. As you purchase goods, a certain percentage of the amount is paid to your registered cause.

So the next time you shop, whether it is for groceries, clothes, holidays, insurance, DIY- the list is endless- don’t forget easy fundraising!!.



**Monthly raffle**

Each month we hold a raffle and the prize alternates between £25 gift card to spend at Tescos or Co-op. Tickets are available in the foyer each month and are £1 for 5 tickets.

Please support us with this!!

This month the prize is £25 Tesco’s giftcard

**Halloween Event Wednesday 31st Oct 4.30-6.30pm**

Last year we held a Halloween event at the Cricket Club and it was a huge success. We will be holding this again and hope you can join us. It’s open to anyone, so tell your friends and family. More details to follow

Another date for your diary:

**Sunday 9th Dec Christmas Fayre at Memorial Hall.**

More details nearer the time

**Monthly Stay ‘n’ play**

Some of you may have attended some of these sessions last year on a Wednesday morning. Unfortunately we won’t be carrying these on, as the numbers of children attending morning sessions have increased and hence difficult to run a Stay’n’Play too.

**Karen Ross Autumn Outdoor Photo Shoot Friday 12th Oct 12.00 onwards**

For these last few years Karen ( Ross Photography as you approach Ilkley) has come along to take fabulous outdoor photo shoots. Taken in the school grounds-( although you wouldn’t know they were in the school grounds) in and amongst the Autumn foliage with children dressed in outdoor clothing, make gorgeous pictures for keepsakes or presents. You can choose from a variety of prints- canvas, framed, desk top etc

She will take lots of photos to include anyone- adults, children, older/younger siblings etc. Karen can commence the shoots straight after morning pre-school and continue throughout the afternoon including after 3.30 to accommodate any school siblings too.

If you are interested – please complete the attached form and return by Friday 5th Oct after which I will issue you with the time of your slot

There is no obligation to buy once you have seen the proofs, but I can assure you, you won’t be disappointed!

Thank you!