



Newsletter January 2008

Welcome back!

We hope everyone had a good Christmas and wish you all a **very happy New Year**.

Welcome also to **Danny, Isobel, Domenico, Gemma** and **Matilda** who join our main sessions as new starters; to **Bella** and **Millie** who have moved up from our 2 year old sessions; and to **Rufus** and **Oscar** who start with the 2 year olds.

This first week we have been looking at the **Chinese New Year** – it comes as no surprise to find that the children are monkeys, chickens or goats!! Quite a few have said, 'Mummy/Daddy says I'm a monkey at home!'. We are also looking at Chinese writing and Chinese dragons.

For the rest of term we will be looking at **'People who help us'**. In week 5 of term we will be concentrating on people who help us have food. As part of this, we would like to walk the children up Wick Lane to visit the chicken farm – we will be working on a ratio of one adult to two children for this trip, and feel this is a very relevant activity as it allows the children to see farming that happens where they live.

The 17th January will be a dedicated craft morning where the children will be encouraged to explore resources and ideas of their own. We hope to make this a regular activity.

The **parents' event this term** will be on **Tuesday 12th February** from 12.30 onwards, and will take the form of a 'Come and Play' session. We will be setting up activities that the children regularly encounter at Pre-school, and the idea will be that parents can see how we play and how the children's play and our support of that links with learning and development. Please come along if you possibly can; it will be fun **and** informative. Tea and coffee will be available as usual – once we feel you've played long enough, of course!

Lunch Club

Just to remind you... We have spaces available every day for Lunch Club. If you would like to book a casual Lunch Club, from 11.30 to 12.30, just bring a £2.50 and a packed lunch on the day and book in. (Subject to space being available – it's best to check beforehand for busier days, i.e., Monday to Friday.

We currently have the following spaces free:

Mon: 7

Tue: 9

Wed: 11

Thu: 10

Fri: 6

Pub Quiz

We are hoping to arrange a fundraising Pub Quiz for the last Sunday in January at the White Horse – further details to follow.

Tesco Sport

Thank you all **very** much for all the Tesco Sport vouchers – we collected a total of **2,439**. With this we have been able to order a Giant Top, a Go-Go Bus, six Katchua Kups and a Nobbly Wobbly! We are sure the children will have fun playing with these when they arrive in the Spring. For pictures, see the notice board in the lobby.

Bad weather closures

If Pre-school has to close due to adverse weather conditions, we will try to get a message broadcast on Spire FM and BBC Radio Wiltshire on or after 8am. If in doubt, ring one of our bad weather contact people: Kirsten Sykes (01725 512868) or Andrea Ware (01725 514436), after 8am. Pre-school will *always* close if the Primary School has to close due to bad weather.

Committee Meetings

Anyone who is involved with Pre-school is welcome to attend our **Committee Meetings** – you do not have to be a Committee member, and you won't find yourself 'volunteered' for anything you don't want to do! It's a good way to find out how Pre-school is run. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 22 January, 8pm**, in the **White Horse**.

Printer Cartridges

We have some printer cartridges for Xerox Docuprint (M750/760) that someone no longer needs. If anyone is interested, could they talk to staff.

Term dates

Term 3: 7 Jan – 15 Feb 2008
Term 4: 25 Feb – 4 Apr 2008
Term 5: 21 Apr – 23 May 2008
Term 6: 2 Jun – 25 Jul 2008

Easter is 21 and 24 March 2008
Bank Holiday 5 May 2008.

Web site

A reminder of our web site:
<http://www.downtonpreschool.co.uk/>