



Newsletter

November 2007

This term's news

We would like to welcome **Erin** and **Harrison** who have joined our 2 year old sessions, and **Ben W** and **Robyn** who have moved up to our main sessions.

Congratulations to **Soumia** and family on the birth of Carlitos during our half-term break.

This term our topic is 'A is for Africa'. In our first week we are looking at the Muslim festivals of Ramadan and Eid. We will be indulging in lots of craft activities such as clay post, weaving and dyeing. This will of course be followed by lots of glittery, sparkly, Christmassy stuff culminating in our Christmas party and Nativity play on Tuesday 18 December. (Details later in the newsletter.)

We are hoping to extend and enhance the children's experiences by organizing longer walks, craft mornings and cooking activities on a regular basis. This will mean that we would need a higher adult/child ratio on those sessions. If you would be happy to give us a hand with any of these activities, could you let a member of staff know so that we could contact you when we have planned these days.

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 24 November, 10.30 to 12.30, at the **Memorial Hall**. Come and do some Christmas shopping, or maybe buy something for yourself!

Pre-school are having a Nearly New table, so if anyone has any saleable items they'd like to donate or get rid of please bring them into Pre-school by the morning of Friday 23rd November.

There are still spaces left for a few more tables. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be, the number to ring is: 01725 510519.

If you can donate food and/or drinks for the Bazaar we would be very grateful. A note will go up on the door about this nearer the time. For those of you whose baking attempts keep the fire brigade in business, the Co-op do a good selection of cakes and biscuits! Also, any parent or carer able to help at the Bazaar, your assistance would be very welcome. Please ring 01725 510519, or leave your contact details with a member of staff.

Web site

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

Christmas Party and Nativity Play

Tuesday 18 December at **Downton Baptist Church., South Lane** (the lane to the right of the White Horse).

All Pre-school children are welcome, including those who do not normally attend on a Tuesday. Please drop your child off at

the Baptist Hall at 12 noon. Parents and carers are welcome back from 1.45 for a 2pm prompt start for the Nativity Play. This will be followed by tea/coffee and a raffle.

12-1pm Soft Play
1-1.45pm Party food
2pm Nativity Play
2.20pm Tea/coffee and raffle.

After an hour's play the children will be very hungry, and would welcome donations of party food! A list will go up on the Pre-school door; please sign up if you are able to donate some food. We would also welcome prizes for the raffle.

There will be no Lunch Club that day. If your child is attending Pre-school in the morning, please collect them at 11.30 and take them to the Baptist Hall. We are sorry, but as staff will be moving equipment from the Band Hall to the Baptist Hall, they will be unable to escort the children.

Tesco Sports

We are still collecting Tesco Sports vouchers, box in the entrance lobby. Thank you for all your vouchers to date.

Fundraising news

The Pampered Chef evening in October raised almost £125 through sales of cookware and the raffle. Thank you to all who came, and who donated raffle prizes.

Remember to do your online shopping at: **www.buy.at/downtonpreschool**, as a percentage of sales comes to us at no cost to you. Retailers include M&S, Amazon, John Lewis, Tesco, Asda, and Mothercare.

Term dates

Wiltshire County Council have yet to confirm term dates, so these are subject to final confirmation, but we will do our very best not to make changes.

Term 2 ends Friday 21 December 2007

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.

Primary School

(A reminder of the notice sent by Wilts CC)

Will your child be four years old before 1 September 2008? If so, you must apply for a primary school place. The deadline for applications is **noon on Friday 16 November 2007**. Apply online at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk. Application forms for Wiltshire schools are also available at primary schools and pre-schools. All forms must be returned to the School Admissions Team at County Hall, Trowbridge. Ring Customer Care Unit on 01225 713010 for more information or to request the booklet, 'Finding a Primary School Place in Wiltshire'.

If you wish to apply for a primary school place outside of Wiltshire, (e.g., Hampshire) you should complete the application form produced by the Local Authority responsible for the school.