

NEWSLETTER

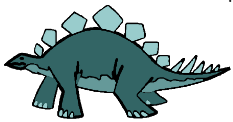
April 2009



Welcome to Shane, Skylar, Nancy and Alida who are new, or have recently started in our main sessions, and to Sophie and Lucas who have moved up from the 2 year old sessions.

Welcome also to Madison, Amy, Connie, Jamie, Isobel, Flo, Lily and Sophia who have recently joined or are new to our very busy 2 year old session. We hope everyone will settle well and that children and parents will enjoy their time at pre-school.

This term our topic will be *broadly* based on animals. Taking into account the current interests of our children we will be looking at dinosaurs who lived a *such* a long time ago! Also investigating our sense of touch by thinking about what animals feel like, following the current interest in maps and treasure hunts by wondering how animals hide and making good use of all those wonderful imaginations by inventing our own "Crazy creatures"!



We hope you will be able to come along to our "Stay and Play" session on Tuesday 19th May from 9 to 11:30am where you will be able to help your children access all the creative resources to make their "Crazy Creature" as well as lots of other toys and activities. You can also take the opportunity to look through the childrens' Learning journeys and chat to your Key person.



You may notice on the termly plan that we have a new box, "Special Focus", these are areas that we are aiming to concentrate on this term and you will see that as well as an overall flavour of Knowledge and Understanding of the World (KUW), ie, a sense of time & lots of finding out about the world around them, we also want to challenge their problem solving,



reasoning and numeracy skills and look at teamwork, ie, sharing, taking turns and working together.

Finally, following a suggestion from a parent we are now trying to write up what we have been doing each day on a white board which you will find on the table by the door, I hope this will be of interest and will help with the "I don't know" or "Nothing" replies you sometimes get when you ask what they've been up to!

Reminder

Please would you be able to bring in a plastic, named drinks bottle of water at each session which we will put on a tray so that it is all available as and when it is needed. The bottle must be filled with water only, thank you. This is the same system they use at the primary school.



Invoices

Fee invoices have been sent out this week. We would appreciate prompt payment by **Friday 1st May**. Please speak to Andrea if you have any concerns. Nursery Grant Headcount takes place for a week starting Thursday 7th May. All parents of children in receipt of the Grant will need to sign the form during this week, if you are going to be away at this time could you let Andrea know. Thanks.

Cake Sale

Anne and Jenny's cake sale on Red Nose Day raised a fab £18. Their most recent sale raised £35, this time for pre-school. They are planning to hold another at the end of this term.



Chocoholics Coffee Morning

Thanks to Paul at the white Horse for allowing us to hold our coffee morning there. We raise enough in commission to buy the Easter Eggs for the hunt so thanks to everyone who came.

Sponsored Walk and Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to everyone who came along, the rain held off for the afternoon and the children all seemed to have a great time. We would be very grateful if we could have all sponsor money brought in by Friday 1st May.

Treehouse Theatre in Downton

The Treehouse Theatre will be presenting a Story Box at Downton Library as part of Salisbury Arts Festival this year. Its on Saturday 30th May at 2pm. They are launching a new story especially for the festival - an Indian Folk Tale called 'The Adventures of Prince Risal'. Its free, but you need a ticket from the library.

Photos

There are photographs of the visit to pre-school by the Treehouse Theatre and of the Easter Egg Hunt on our website www.downtonpreschool.co.uk



Don't forget

If you are buying something online have a look at www.buy.at/downtonpreschool and see if the online store you want is listed, then just click on it to shop as usual and you will earn pre-school a commission.

Tesco and Sainsburys

Our collections of vouchers are going really well. We have collection boxes in the porch for Tesco "Schools and Clubs" vouchers and Sainsburys "Active Kids" vouchers. We will keep you posted on what we eventually buy with your donations.



AGM

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 14th May at pre-school. At 8pm.

Do you know what the pre-school committee do and who is on it? Would you like to find out more? Then come along. A lot of the current committee will be retiring as their children leave pre-school and move on to the primary so there will be posts that need filling. Pre-school cannot run with out a committee so your support is vital.

For Sale

Pre-school has 2 ink cartridges for sale. They are for a HP OfficeJet Printer they are:-

Black C8767EE/ No.339 - £9.00

Colour C8766EE /No.343 - £7.00

Both less than ½ price.

We bought them and then the printer broke! Speak to Andrea.

Committee Meeting

Our next committee meeting is on **Thursday 23rd April** in The White Horse. Come along, we're a very friendly bunch and you won't get roped into doing anything you don't want to do!

