



**NEWSLETTER from the STAFF of  
Yateley Community Preschool  
September 2018  
Registered Charity No.298231**

Welcome back to all our families after the summer break, we hope you all had an enjoyable time. As always it has gone far too quickly! We also offer a warm welcome to all our new families to Pre-School and hope you enjoy your time with

us.

The idea of the staff news letter is to keep parents up to date with topics planned over the forth coming term and to feed back information about activities your children may have been involved in. Also from time to time we may have requests for help, this will vary from asking parents to come in and read during book week or simple tasks such as saving items needed for specific activities. Parents are welcome at any time to offer advice, take part or help towards our curriculum planning / activities. Keeping us up to date with your child's interests at home will help us to include these interests into our planning too. If you would like ideas of activities to do at home, please do ask, maybe you would like a playdoh recipe or ideas for concentration and listening etc... please just ask.

We will be continuing our letter / sound bag and weekly colour bag throughout the year, these will be discussed at registration time each day. For those who are new to our colour, letter / sound bag, I will explain....It is a bag that goes home with the children on a rota, so that hopefully all children will get a turn throughout the year. Attached to the bag will be a tag showing our letter of the week or colour, so what we ask is that you help your child find a few objects or pictures that start with that letter / sound e.g ...Aa – apple etc. If it is the colour bag it will be items that are the relevant colour. Last years children took great delight and pride in showing the other children what they had brought in at registration time. We have purchased a drawstring bag in each of the colours. If you are unable to do this or do not wish to take part then please hand immediately back to a member of staff.

Adult led activities will either be topic based or link into the colour, This gives staff a wider range of ideas. They may also be around your child's interests. Please note that adult led activities will not always consist of a painting or gluing, we may play a game, do a physical activity or role play. Please do not be disappointed if your child does not bring home a picture every session, all children are encouraged to take part in an activity, but are not forced. All children are kept busy throughout the session, we have a wide range of equipment and children can choose or request items to have out.

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The care and education offered by our setting helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Children need a combination of a well planned and resourced curriculum as well as opportunities for child initiated learning and continuous provision to take their learning forward and to provide opportunities for all children to succeed in an atmosphere of care and feeling valued. Staff will use observations of the children to devise 'what next steps' for each child, these will be used to inform planning.

From September 2012 Pre-school has been following the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), the framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Website link [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk) There were some changes to the EYFS in September 2014.

Your child will be learning and developing skills and acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through three Prime areas - Personal, Social and Emotional, Communication and Language, Physical development and four Specific areas – Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world and Expressive Arts and Design

Please take time to look at the parents guidelines to the Early Years Foundation Stage on our website [www.yateleycpreschool.co.uk](http://www.yateleycpreschool.co.uk)

Monitoring of each child's progress is essential to ensure that they are making progress and that particular difficulties in any areas of learning, whatever the cause, are identified and addressed. This monitoring at

Pre-School will be done by your child's key person, with the help of all staff.

Pre-schools are being encouraged to follow free flow Continuous Provision meaning that children have access to any equipment inside and outside, the door is open so children can choose to be in or out and learning is 'Child Initiated'. We do this as well as still having 'loose topics' which we feel children still enjoy and benefit from and parents have requested that we still do topics. So, the staff will still be providing an adult led activity linked to our topic or colour, but there is a sheet of paper on the door for parents to add what their child would like to 'do' in a session, for example... If on the way to pre-school you and your child find leaves, bring them in and we can paint or glue with them as well as studying them at registration, if your child is interested in a helicopter for example, let us know and we will incorporate it into our days plans. This sheet can be found on the inner door.

Observations on your children start from the moment they start at YCPS, we use these observations to keep an eye on their development and use their interests to inform our planning. If there is anything that your child enjoys doing at home, do please let us know. We are also able to offer advice on activities you could do at home too!

We have decided on some loose topics picking out the children's favourites. Some topics we will be doing over a half term, so they are not rushed, we will still be planning using your child's interests too which are essential to your child's learning and development.

Our topics for this term are as follows;-



**Week commencing 4th September – Settling in/ story of the week 'Each Peach Pear Plum' and song Baa, Baa, Black Sheep, Makaton signing 'Look'**

**Week commencing 10th September - Settling in/ story of the week 'Owl Babies', Makaton signing 'Listen'**

If you want to know any words and tunes to any songs your child starts using at home, do please let us know.



**Week commencing 17th September - Nursery Rhymes/ letter of the week Aa/ colour of the week Red / story Peace At Last / song Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Makaton signing 'Sit'**

**Week commencing 24th September Nursery Rhymes letter/ sound Bb and colour blue / story The Gingerbread Man / song The Gingerbread Man, Makaton signing 'Toilet'**

**Week commencing 1st October Transport/vehicles letter/ sound Cc and colour pink / story Duck in the truck / song Down at the station, Makaton signing 'Food & drink'**

**Week commencing – 8th October Our bodies and feelings letter/ sound Dd and colour yellow / story 10 Spooky Skeletons / song Pattern Song, Makaton signing 'Book'**

Keep a look out for leaves changing colour

**Week commencing 15th October – Our bodies and feelings letter/ sound Ee and colour orange / story The Smartest Giant In Town / song I've Got a Body, Makaton signing 'Music'**

Feel free to bring in a few conkers, leaves etc.. that you find on your walks and we will display them on a nature table. Some of the items may be used for activities - autumn colours are lovely to work with. If anyone has any old tights or stockings, no holes in the toes please, wondering what for, all will be revealed!

**Week commencing 22nd October is half term. Return Tuesday 30th October.** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October is an inset day.

Our topics after half term will be Bonfire Night / keeping safe, Autumn, Divali, Remembrance day, Space, St Andrew's Day, Christmas – If anyone wishes to contribute to these topics, please let a member of staff know.

## General information

- **If any of your details have changed for example – address, phone number, mobile phone, contact details of people who collect your child, please let us know. If you would like to check through your form please speak to a member of staff.**
- New families please have a look at our website and read our policies, once read you will need to sign to say you have seen them. I know there is rather a lot to read but I would be grateful if you could do so, so that we can get our records up to date. Thank you. Our Policies, statements and procedures will be re - adopted at our AGM on Monday 24th September, if everyone is in agreement of changes made. We need as many parents to attend as possible. We will need plenty of new people to join our committee this year as many people are leaving now that their children have moved on to school. It can be fun and it means you have a say in how your pre-school is run. **Without new members pre-school will have to close. Please speak to a member of staff for further information on being a Committee member.**
- **Last year a few of our parents volunteered to wash tea towels and painting aprons once a week, some of these parents have now left, if anyone would like to take over this easy job, do let us know or add your name to the list on the door. We also have a rota for helping to keep Pre-Schools toys clean, if anyone feels that they would like to help out, please speak to Jennie or Michele, or add your name to the list on the door- one perk of this job is that your child can have a play with the toys before they come back to Pre-School! The more names on the list the more likely it will be you will only have to do this job once.**
- Just a reminder, please bring in a healthy snack for snack time such as fruit, vegetables or bread sticks in a named bag or snack box. A box will be placed inside the main room for you to put your fruit in for the morning and afternoon. Sometimes the children will be helping to prepare the fruit, using child safety knives. From time to time we may ask you to bring in an alternate snack, this will be written within the weeks topic above.

## GRAPES

**Please, if you supply grapes for your child could you cut them in half, length ways, they are one of the worst foods for a child to choke on, it would just save us a bit of time when faced with a few children all having grapes and preferably we do not want any choking! Thank you**

- Now that people are being green when shopping and using re-usable shopping bags we have less bags to give out with children's work or wet clothes. If you have a supply of bags at home we could put them to good use, or maybe if you could pop one in your child's bag for us to use when we change their clothes, that would be fantastic.
- Although it is a horrible thought, the weather will become colder over this half term, please make sure your child is adequately dressed so that we can still go outside. **Children will have access to the outside whatever the weather and they will have access to mud, so please old clothes only.** If your child wears Wellingtons to pre-school please ensure that they are named and your child has a change of shoes, they will not be allowed on the climbing frame in Wellingtons for safety reasons. We have ponchos that the children can use in wet weather.
- Could we also request that children do not wear dungarees to pre-school, this can cause problems when a child leaves going to the toilet until the last minute, it helps their independence if they are able to manage their clothes themselves. If your child is in pull-ups, could we please also ask that they do not wear popper vests as this has also caused a problem in the past. Thank you.
- A list of key persons and their children are on the self- registering board, if you would like to arrange to speak to your child's key person about how your child is settling in please feel free to arrange this at a convenient time with your key person. We would benefit from your input into what your child achieves at home, how you teach them about safety for example etc... We would like you to be involved, suggest areas where you feel you would like us to help you and your child. We want and encourage your involvement in their learning journey and achievements.

- Don't forget if you want to 'Stay and Play' let us know, once your child has settled do come in and help for a session, it can be great fun!
- [www.yateleypreschool.co.uk](http://www.yateleypreschool.co.uk) Please use this website for policies, procedures, newsletters, forthcoming events etc.... It will help us to cut back on the need to photocopy so many letters etc..
- We are always in need of newspapers, especially the large tabloid, to cover our easel and tables, also wool, sparkly material, ribbon, buttons etc.. for our collage tables, so don't throw anything away, we can re cycle most things! Empty cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes, any box that is clean can be used for junk modelling. Please make sure all boxes etc.. have no traces of food, due to allergies to eggs and possible nut allergies. **WE DO NOT USE MEDICINE PACKETS OR WASHING / DISHWASHER POWDER BOXES.** Thank you
- If your child is staying for lunch, don't forget to provide lunch in a box or lunch bag with cool pack inside. No fizzy drinks, sweets or nuts!
- **T-shirts and Sweatshirts**  
Please could you make sure that your Pre-school T-shirts and sweatshirts are named as it is hard to match up to the right child at the end of the day. On the board in the lobby there is a company advertised that does name tags and we benefit in commission!! Thank you. If you would like to purchase any - T-shirts are £6 sweatshirts £12

We are also a member of THE GIVING MACHINE, which raise free donations to our preschool. You can find out more details through their website- [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk)

Our garden is an ongoing project. What we would like is a colourful garden in spring, it would be fantastic if every child could bring in a bulb, whether daffodil, tulip etc... The children will then learn to plant them, watch them start to grow and tend to them. If any mums, dads or grand-parents are budding garden enthusiasts and could share any of their precious time to help the children with weeding etc... that would be great. We want to get the children involved in sowing seeds to grow herbs and vegetables. This year we grew a few strawberries, beans, peas, tomatoes, potatoes, beetroot, carrots and lettuce, next year we want to grow more. Not only do the children help to plant them, they get a chance to try the vegetables too. Any cuttings or shrubs that you no longer want would be great too.

**Staffing – below is a list of which days each member of staff works.**

Monday am	Tuesday am	Wednesday am	Thursday am	Friday am
Jennie	Jennie - office	Jennie	Jennie	Jennie
Jackie	Jackie	Jackie	Jackie	Jackie
Debbie	Debbie	Debbie	Debbie	Jo
Jo	Liz	Liz	Tracy	Liz
Liz	Tracy	Michele	Michele	Michele
Tracy	Michele	Tracy	Roo	Roo/Tracy
Michele	Jane			
Karen Office		Karen Office	Karen Office	
Lunchtime – Tracy, Jo, Michele, Maisy	Lunchtime – Jennie, Liz, Jo, Tracy	Lunchtime – Jennie, Tracy Jo, Jackie	Lunchtime – Debbie, Michele, Karen	Lunchtime – Roo/Tracy, Michele, Maisy, Jo
Monday pm	Tuesday pm	Wednesday pm	Thursday pm	Friday pm
Jennie	Jennie - office	Jennie	Jennie	Jennie
Jackie	Jackie	Debbie	Jackie	Jackie
Debbie	Debbie	Jo	Debbie	Roo/Tracy
Liz	Jo	Liz	Tracy	Liz
Tracy	Liz	Tracy	Michele	Michele
Michele	Tracy	Michele		Maisy
Maisy	Jane			

**Mondays – on a rota staff will have non contact time with the children to update learning journeys to alleviate some of the time spent at home doing these lovely records. Tuesday – Jennie has staff supervision time.**

Access via back gate – this gate is open in the morning until 9.15am, it is then locked and remains closed until 2.45pm. So if you are picking up or dropping off between these times please use the gate to the right of the schools main entrance at the top of the drive.

**We are looking for some ladies size 3 or 4 shoes with small heels for our dressing up box, the sparklier the better!!**

See below for a list of dates for the school year. If there are to be any changes we will let you know as soon as possible.

**Finally, if you have any concerns about your child at pre-school or any queries, however trivial they may seem, please come in and speak to Jennie, Jackie, Debbie or your child's key person, your child's happiness is important to us. It is a position of great privilege and responsibility to care for children, and the safety and security of those children is of the utmost importance to us.**

### Term dates – 2018- 2019

Date	
Monday 3rd September	Inset Day
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Preschool reopens
Friday 19th October	Last day before half term
Half term Monday 22nd October to Friday 26th	
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Inset Day
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Preschool reopens
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Pre-school session
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Party
Wednesday 19th December	Staff Planning / Training day
Holiday Thursday 21st December to Thursday 4th January	
Monday 7th January 2019	Return
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Last Pre-school session
Half term Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 22nd February	
Monday 25th February	Return
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Pre-school session
Holiday Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 19th April	
Tuesday 23rd April	Return
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Last Pre-school session
Half term Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Return
Wednesday 17th July	Last pre-school session
Thursday 18th July	Leavers sing song and picnic Information to come nearer the time
Friday 19th July	Staff Planning / Training day

**If there are any changes to these dates you will be notified as quickly as possible**