

Registered charity 1148519



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Making it good,
for every child, every day



Spring is (almost) here!

Dates for your diary...

Here's what's going on this term and beyond...

Mon 12th Mar Textiles Week

Friday 16th Mar POPS Social,
Gin Tasting evening

Monday 19th Mar Easter
Baking and Craft Week

Thurs 29th Mar Last day of
Term 4 - Easter holidays

Monday 16th Apr First day of
Term 5 - Summer term begins

Mon 7th May Bank Holiday

Friday 18th May Quiz Night

Friday 25th May Last day of
Term 5

Monday 4th June First day of
Term 6

A message from Emer, our Chair

I visited the pre school this week and spent a lovely hour in the room with the staff and children. As always, I was impressed with the warmth and calm inside, children playing happily, absorbed in their games, listening to stories, getting messy in the arts corner or joining in with group activities. I've heard compliments on the pre school from parents in the village this week too, remarking on the welcome they receive and how content their children are here, which reminds me how lucky we are to have such a great facility for our little ones in this small village.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our social event next month, Friday 16th March, see the POPS column for all the details!

Warmest regards, Emer



Dear parents and carers,

Well I have had to completely re-write this first section of the newsletter following the last 7 days of chaos we have been experiencing.... First snow, and then the water situation – it really has been a very difficult start to Term 4! We would like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding with regards to keeping an eye on emails and updates, and for appreciating why we have been unable to open without running water. Lets hope that the remainder of the term is drama free!

After a very busy start to 2018 and lots of new children starting with us, this term we just have Millie and George and their families who we would like to give a warm welcome to – their start dates have had to be put back due to the weather and water issues, but we hope that they settle in well once they are able to start. We would also like to welcome back Tor after her shoulder injury, and give Wiz a Superwoman nomination for her recovery from her hip surgery at Christmas time – we missed both of these much loved members of staff at various times last term, and are delighted that they are back with us this term.

The children who started in January have all settled in well, and are now happy and relaxed with the rhythm of the day here at the pre-school. Their key workers have been spending lots of time getting to know them, and new friendships and connections are forming with their peers as they share ideas, games and experiences. We hope that all of the new parents have got to grips with Tapestry too, and have been able to see that the children are enjoying attending and engaged. If you need any help with Tapestry, please do ask your key person or pop into the office and speak to either Fiona or myself.

The new interactive board that we had installed before Christmas, thanks to the Rotherfield Trust, has proved to be a great success. The staff have all undergone training, and we are all now aware of what an incredible piece of equipment we are fortunate enough to have – the children are benefitting from our training as we have learned more about the resources on offer, and the apps that will help to provide the children with an educational foundation, whilst they are still having lots of fun! We have also been able to provide the children with some new outdoor resources thanks to the Tesco's Bags of Help grant, including the very smart fleet of new yellow and black didi cars, some bug hunting and nature resources, as well as two very smart wooden wheelbarrows that will be perfect for races and gardening!

The children have been celebrating Chinese New Year since they have come back this term, including trying noodles and taking part in activities that are all about dogs as this is the Year of the Dog. There has been a Chinese dragon roaming the pre-school, and the children have been talking about the Chinese culture and people.

We were hoping that last week would have been book week, and on the days we were open, we did manage to read lots of books and had some activities around the books that we were looking at – the Three Little Pigs mini books that the children created were just beautiful. This Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day, complete with dressing up – the theme was The Mad Hatter's Tea Party, and the staff fully embraced this!! Wiz had also organised a Textiles week for this week, but we have pushed it back until next week in order to be able to do the full week. We hope that all of you will still be able to come in and get involved. I'm sure that there will be lots of beautiful creations by the end of next week.

Newsletter Term 4 continued...

Thank you very much to the parents that took the time to fill in our Survey Monkey questionnaire. We have taken all of your comments and points into consideration, and if we haven't spoken to you directly, we will do so if we feel that we want to give you clarification or additional feedback. Ensuring that you and your children are happy with the setting is of utmost importance to us, and we strive to resolve any areas that you feel are not working well in order to give both the children and you as their parents and carers the best possible experience. Fiona and I are always available to speak to, so if you do have something you would like to address with us, please do not hesitate to come and find us in the office, or email us and book a meeting.

Finally – and I know that both Emer and Sarah have mentioned it – please do come and support our Spring Social evening on 16th March. It will be a lovely event for parents to come and meet each other, and the POPs team always put in a huge effort to make these evenings special. I know that we now have a singer booked for part of the evening too as entertainment. In addition to this, the money raised on the evening will go towards continuing to replace and update our toys, games and learning resources, helping to 'Making it good, for every child, every day.'

Kind regards,

Liz

Survey Monkey - Feedback

If you haven't filled in the Survey Monkey questionnaire, but would like to, the link can be found on the home page of our website www.rotherfieldpre-school.co.uk by clicking on the 'We need you' box. We really do appreciate and evaluate every response that we get. Alternatively, if there is a member of staff who you feel goes the extra mile, please do drop a note in our red post box in the foyer to let them know – your appreciation is always gratefully received.

Notes To Parents

Labelling of coats etc:

Please ensure that coats and clothes that can be taken off (hoodies, cardigans etc) are labelled or easily identified as we are finding that the children get warm through the day and then take layers off. The staff do try to ensure that these are collected up and put somewhere safe, but sometimes it is difficult if the item has been taken off and left out of sight!

Nuts:

Please remember that we are a Nut Free pre-school as we have a child with a serious nut allergy. This includes chocolate spreads that contain hazelnuts.



A wintery hello from POPS! Now the snow has thawed our thoughts turn to spring and in particular the Spring Social taking place on Friday 16th March. It is a great opportunity to meet other parents, have a chat and enjoy an evening out, all in a good cause! As always, profits from this POPS event will go towards the pre-school fundraising, which helps provide a whole host of additional resources to enrich the children's experiences at pre-school. This time around there is a gin theme, with an opportunity to sample different mixes and find out a bit more about one of the nation's favourite tipples. We are also pleased to be able to confirm that we have live music to entertain us during the evening. At just £15 per person it is a very reasonably priced night out so please come along, bring a friend, and support your pre-school. The children really do benefit from all monies raised.

Thinking further ahead we have, as always, a cake sale at the end of term and will also be holding a stall at the Bonfire Society Easter event on Good Friday, do come along and say hello. There will be a bonnet competition and egg race as well as stalls and refreshments.

Also in the last week of this term POPS will be having an informal meet up, with further details to be published the week beforehand. All parents are very welcome.

Later in the year we will be holding our annual Quiz Night on Friday 18th May. It is one of the biggest events on the POPS calendar, and always great fun. From hushed debates on the answers to lots of laughs with the fantastic MC, it's certainly not one to be missed.

Thank you so much to those parents that have supported us so far this year. POPS and the pre-school really do appreciate the generosity in both donations and time which help run and support events.

Do keep your eyes peeled for more information on the POPS events - we regularly have posters on the pre-school entrance door, and posts on the Facebook page - and also please feel free to speak to any of the POPS team with ideas and suggestions.

Best wishes

Sarah (on behalf of POPS)

Come and join us
for a relaxed evening

~
Friday 16th March
8-10pm
Rotherfield Scout Hut

~
Gin Quiz

~
Appetisers

~
Live Music

~
Cash Bar

~
£15 pp



Did you know?

The majority of the time that your child spends at pre-school they are involved in what is termed as 'child led' activity. This essentially means that the child chooses what they want to be playing with, and how they want to play with that resource. The EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) indicates that the majority of the day should be child-initiated play, but that adult led activities should also be included daily. However, this does not mean that the staff should not be involved with child led play.

When children are involved in their own play, it is up to the practitioners to engage with them and find ways of creating a learning experience within the boundaries of the game already being played – it is not down to the adult to change or try to upgrade the activity! An example of this would be asking about colours, shapes, numbers or words relating to the resources that are involved in the game. Encouraging a conversation around the game is the perfect way for the staff to observe a child's communication and language skills, as well as their interaction with other children and adults, both of which are key aspects of the EYFS. By allowing the children to make their own choices, and manage the direction of the game or activity, we are promoting independent thought, creativity and problem solving, but with the safety net of adult support.

