

Blewbury Pre-School

Church Road, Blewbury, OX11 9PY

Tel: 01235 851786

Email: preschool@blewburypreschool.co.uk



13th August 2020

Dear Parents

SEPTEMBER OPENING AND NEW TERM INFORMATION

We hope that you have all enjoyed the summer holidays and are ready for an interesting and enjoyable term at Pre-School. We are very much looking forward to seeing all the children returning back to Pre-School and also meeting some of our new children and extend a big welcome to you all.

We need to let you know about the changes we have made to our practice, routines and activities in order to make our Pre-School safe for children and staff. Most of these changes were put into operation when we re-opened in June, and we have now updated these again following the advice from the Government, 'Actions for Early Years and Child Care Providers during the COVID 19 outbreak', dated 27 July 2020, which you can also read through on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>. You will also need to refer to both the attached Health Declaration and Agreement Form and Risk Assessment. We also need to say that we may have to make further changes to reflect the Pre-School's needs according to the scientific and governmental advice that we receive regularly!

OPENING DATES, TIMES AND SESSIONS

- Our new term starts on Thursday 3rd September.
- The sessions will be from Monday - Friday, from 9.00am - 12.00noon, with extended hours from 12.00noon until 2.00pm.
- Your teaching team will remain the same as always - Mrs Edwards, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Cheswick.
- You should have received a separate email confirming the sessions for your child for September.

Registered Ofsted Number: 134507

Registered Charity Number: 300117

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ARRIVAL AND COLLECTION SYSTEM

- Please bring your child along to Pre-School between 9.00 - 9.15am, and be prepared to wait in a queue outside Pre-School keeping 2 metres apart if possible.
- Unless your child is new to Pre-School, or has not attended since we closed in March and will require help to settle into the session, **we cannot allow parents inside Pre-School**. A member of staff will greet your child at the door, where they will be encouraged to enter Pre-School with their bag, and staff will help your child settle. Please let us know if you think it will be difficult for your child to enter the building on their own so that we can discuss settling in arrangements.
- If it is agreed that a parent will stay to help settle their child, they will be required to wear a mask and gloves. Any visitor that enters the building will also be required to wear a mask and gloves.
- At collection time, the same process will follow. Parents should wait outside Pre-School at a safe distance. A member of staff will ensure that your child has all their belongings in their bag, and will hand your child over to your care. Parents should remain 2 metres away from the member of staff on the door, and communication by email, text or telephone is preferred if you have queries or concerns. (The new mobile telephone number for Pre-School is: 07484 237590). If we have to talk to you about any accident or concern we have about your child during the morning, we will phone to discuss this with you prior to your arriving, to ensure confidentiality at the front door. We know that this is not ideal and as soon as we have different advice about social distancing, we will change this to reflect new advice.
- Please be assured that we will continue to offer care and comfort for your child should they become upset. We have always offered cheerful and kind re-assurance for each child if they are upset, and we will make sure that their emotional well-being is still a priority for us. If we are ever unable to comfort a child, we will contact you to collect your child as we recognise that sometimes being with their parent is the most important re-assurance for a child.

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CLEANING AND HYGIENCE PROCEDURES

- Please be reassured that the staff will ensure the building is thoroughly cleaned before each session, this includes toys and resources, furniture, fixtures and fittings. We have antibacterial wipes, antibacterial spray and antibacterial soap available to ensure that surfaces are cleaned regularly during the session and after children have finished playing with resources.
- The toilet area will be cleaned each time the area is used. A member of staff will accompany each child to the toilet every time, so that full cleaning can take place.
- We have removed soft furnishings and any resources that cannot be cleaned regularly so some of the usual resources that you would expect to see will not be available at the moment.
- We will still be able to provide a good range of other resources, such as paint at the easel, sticking, plastic toys and pens as we can wipe these over and clean them during the morning. We will also have some wipe over board books and some wipe clean jigsaws.
- We will continue to encourage each child to wash their hands once they have entered Pre-School, and at regular times during the morning, including before and after eating their snack, after using the toilet, after outdoor play and before they go home!
- We always have tissues available and children will continue to be encouraged to use it and bin it, using the slogan - 'catch it, bin it, kill it!'
- Staff will have a full range of PPE available for them to use which includes gloves and aprons (which we have always worn for spillage of bodily fluids) and also masks. These will be worn for toileting and nappy changing and may also be worn on other occasions.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We fully recognise that social distancing is not possible for children of such a young age, and we would not expect children to be able to do this. We do not wish to keep constantly preventing children from playing with each other, and so we will not be using 'bubbles' or moving around the building in planned groups, but we will ensure that children are encouraged to follow all of the safe, hygienic practices that we have adopted.

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EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM

We will be focussing on keeping the children safe and well cared for, and continuing with the prime areas of learning from the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, in particular, the Personal, Social and Emotional, Communication and Language and Physical areas of learning. We will not have an overarching theme this term, but we will plan for each moment, have as much learning outside as possible and continue to have lots of enjoyment and fun!

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED TO BRING

- All children should have **ONE** bag, which contains:-
 - ❖ **nappies**, wipes and nappy bag (if appropriate)
 - ❖ A change of clothes
 - ❖ A **named sun hat**
 - ❖ A **small snack (preferably fruit or plain biscuit) in a named plastic bag** (which will be disposed of each day)
 - ❖ A **named water bottle**.
- **Please do not allow your child to bring in any item from home.** The only exception with this will be for new children who may have a special toy to comfort them - this must be agreed with the child's Key Person in advance, and will be subject to our hygiene regulations.
- If your child is staying for the extended hour's session from 12.00noon to 2.00pm, your child will also need to bring a packed lunch with them. This should be provided in a named plastic bag. A member of staff will ensure that this lunch is placed in the fridge on arrival. Your child's lunch should be healthy, balanced and nutritious with a sandwich, piece of fruit, a dairy item such as yoghurt and then if you wish, a cake or biscuit and/or small savoury snacks.
- We will continue to provide milk as an option at snack time or lunch time, and this is now provided in a small, individual carton, which is disposed of after each child has finished.
- We will provide paper towels for your child to dry their hands on, so you will no longer need to provide a named towel.
- As we will be outside whenever possible, please make sure that your child has adequate sun protection on when they arrive at Pre-School on any hot and sunny days this term.

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HEALTH AND COVID 19 PROCEDURES

- Your child must be fit and well before you bring them to Pre-School and we will ask you to sign a Declaration Form stating that you tell us if you administer calpol/pain relief to your child before coming here. If your child is unwell, you **MUST** keep them at home.
- If your child displays symptoms of COVID-19 during the morning, we will contact you and ask you to pick up your child as soon as possible. (We may use a digital thermometer). We will make sure that the child is kept in a quiet area away from other children and staff, until you are able to collect them. A member of staff will stay with them and in these circumstances, will wear full PPE.
- If your child or anyone in your household displays symptoms of COVID-19, you and the family must get tested. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>
- If the test is negative, please let Pre-School know and the child can return to Pre-School as soon as they are well enough to attend as normal.
- If the test is positive, then your child will need to remain in isolation for 10 days. **You must inform Pre-School as soon as you have received the positive test result - including if this happens at weekends, by sending us an email.**
- Other members of the household will be required to isolate for 14 days and therefore **your child will be unable to return to Pre-School until all household members have finished their period of isolation.**
- **If a child or member of staff tests positive for COVID - 19**, we will contact Public Health England's local Health Protection Team who will guide us on appropriate action to take in these circumstances, and we will of course, let you all know as soon as possible.. We will inform Ofsted if we have a confirmed case of COVID 19.
- We will be following guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce the risk of transmission before we re-open the premises.

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WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NOW

- Please read this letter together with the Health Declaration and Agreement Form and Risk Assessment.
- Having read through all three documents, please sign the Health Declaration and Agreement Form and return this to us before the beginning of term, Thursday 3rd September, either by post or through the computer.

We hope you will find that the measures we have put into place, and our clear and concise instructions, will ensure that the safety of our children, families and staff is at the heart of everything we do.

OTHER NEWS

Pre-School Management Committee - The Pre-School is managed by a parent led Management Committee who help the staff to run the wonderful Pre-School that we have, in areas such as health and safety, maintaining the building and utilities, dealing with all the finances and fund raising! We are so very grateful to Blewbury Parish Council and The Malthus Trust for their generous financial support to us this year.

Our Pre-School Management Committee for 2019 - 2020 has been:-

Chair	- Ciara Hardman-Cole
Treasurer	- Phil Weeden
Secretary	- Emily Lomas
Health and Safety Rep	- Jo Jeffries
Parent Help Rota Liaison	- Pip Weeden
Fund Raising	- Chris Smith
Grants and Fund Raising	- Tiffany Sherrington Hall

We have sadly said farewell to Emily, as her child moves onto Primary School in September, we are so grateful to Emily for all her hard work. We also thank Jo, who has taken on other commitments in her life but she will however, be very much involved in fund raising and providing practical support to the Teachers. Thank you to both Emily and Jo.

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The date of our Annual General Meeting, when we can tell you more about how Pre-School has been run this year and our plans for fund raising, is THURSDAY 8th OCTOBER 2020. This may be organised via an online platform, or may be in the Village Hall, depending on the current coronavirus advice. Please put the date in your diary, and we will see you then!

We are now looking to add new Committee members to our merry crew and would love you to volunteer to help us this year! Please talk to a member of staff or Committee member, for further information.

We appreciate that you may have questions and worries that you would like to discuss with us, so please do not hesitate to contact us using the above email address. We can re-assure you that for the five weeks that we returned to Pre-School during June and July, the children were very happy and the arrangements all ran smoothly.

We look forward to seeing you all next month,
With best wishes
Mrs Edwards, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Cheswick.