

Blewbury Pre-School

Church Rd, Blewbury, OX11 9PY

Tel: 01235 851786

Email: preschool@blewburypreschool.co.uk



Newsletter for Term 3 2022

Happy New Year and Welcome back!

We hope you had a very happy Christmas and that Father Christmas was good to you all this year. We also hope that you have all kept well and managed to spend some much needed time with your families. Thank you so very much for all your generous gifts to us, it was so kind of you and we are very grateful.

Welcome to new families

We are delighted to welcome XXXXXXXXX and XXXX to Pre-School this term. Erin and Jack are younger siblings of previous students, so it is a lovely welcome back to their families. We hope that Erin and Jack will be very happy here with us.

Farewell to Georgie

At the end of last term, we said farewell to XXXX and her family. Georgie is going on to the Nursery attached to the Primary School she will attend in Didcot and we wish Georgie all the very best for her new School. We will miss her very much.

Thank you to

- All of you for supporting the children in learning the songs for our Christmas Nativity. This was a really wonderful occasion last term, and we are glad from the feedback you gave us, that you all enjoyed this.
- Peter Willison, who offered his services to film the Play for us so that we could make this available for you. We are very grateful to Peter.
- Pip and Phil Weeden (our Chair and Treasurer) - although we were unable to hold our Tombola at the Play, at the Village Market on Sunday 12th December, Pip and Phil Weeden held a Bottle Tombola stall. This raised £200! Thank you to Pip and Phil, all who donated bottles and those who took part. This was a great bit of fund raising towards our cost of keeping the Pre-School running.
- The Blewbury Village Society (BVS) and Committee members for holding the Halloween Disco back in October. This also raised £200 and thanks must go to all those involved, particularly Chris Smith and Jo Laugharne and her team, who spent hours designing and decorating the hall.
- Thank you also to Christopher's Dad, Andy Whiting, who has used his skills and talents to redesign our new sign on the front door.

We are so grateful to all our friends and supporters who help us raise funds to enable Blewbury Pre-School to carry on with all the tremendous work that goes into running a successful Pre-School.



Don't forget the Pre-School Lottery is up and running, and going from strength to strength! The next draw will be on Thursday 6th January 2022 - you could be a winner if you are part of the Lottery! Download an application form from our website or pick one up from Pre-School to join.

Is your child going to Primary School in September 2022?

This is a reminder for all parents who are applying for a place at a Primary School of their choice for September this year. Please don't forget that the closing date to register your application with Oxfordshire County Council is 15th January 2022. Apply online at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schoos/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school

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Our theme for this term

We are excited to be planning activities around the theme of 'Our Community and People Who Help Us.' Our curriculum is planned to promote each child's learning through a range of varied activities following the areas of learning which are Communication and Language; Personal, Social and Emotional development; Physical development; Knowledge of the world; Mathematics; Expressive Art and Design and Literacy.

This is what your child will be looking at each week:-

Week 1:	Welcome back and Happy New Year
Week 2:	The work of the Fire Fighter
Week 3:	How Postal Workers' help us
Week 4:	How Farmers' help us
Week 5:	The work of the Vet and Zoo Keeper, Chinese New Year (The Year of the Ox)
Week 6:	How Paramedics' and Doctors' help us and Valentine's Day
Week 7:	How Police Officers' help us.

The **SHOW AND TELL rota** is attached to this Newsletter. This lovely, gentle group time provides children with an opportunity to share something that is important to them from home, learn new language, develop their language skills and encourage their confidence in talking to their friends in a group. Please remember to clearly display your child's name, so that we can make sure this comes back to you at the end of the day! It is always helpful if the item relates to the WEEKLY THEME, as this provides a further opportunity to reinforce the learning, however we do welcome any item that the children wish to bring in.

Arrangements for dealing with Covid

What to do if you have symptoms:

The main signs and symptoms of Covid 19 are:-

- A high temperature - eg hot to touch on your chest or back.
- A new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- A lost or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means if you've noticed that you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste differently to normal.

If you have any of these symptoms, please:-

1. Get a PCR test to check if you have Covid 19 as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home, do not have visitors and isolate until you get your test result back - only leave your home to have a test.

Since 22nd December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for Covid 19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete the 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian direction. If both these tests are negative and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative tests result and children may return to Pre-School from day 8.

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Risk Assessment for Covid 19

We are continuing with our enhanced Covid procedures to minimise the spread of the omicron variant. Please can you remember to:-

- Wear a face mask when bringing in or collecting your child from inside Pre-School.
- Use the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach for coughs and sneezes with your children.
- Support your child with washing their hands regularly. We will continue to ensure that children wash their hands on arrival into the building and regularly before and after food.
- Do not send your child to Pre-School if they are not well (See previous page). If your child should need calpol before arriving at Pre-School, they are probably not well enough to come in for the session, so please telephone us for advice.
- We will continue to ensure that Pre-School is well ventilated and will use CO2 monitors to ensure that the air flow is sufficient to maintain a safe environment for our children and staff. Children need to be dressed warmly so that they can play inside the building with the windows open without getting cold.

Contingency Plan for Pre-School remaining open if the staff are ill

If we experience staffing shortages due to staff self-isolating for Covid 19, we may need to reduce the number of children attending Pre-School in order to remain within the OFSTED staffing ratios. In this situation, we will prioritise children who are vulnerable and children of critical workers. This will of course, be as a last resort, and we will endeavour to remain open as long as we feel that we can keep everyone safe. We hope you will understand this.

We do urge everyone to take up the offer of a free booster vaccination and to take regular lateral flow tests, in order to keep everyone safe.

Please make sure you pack these essential items for your child this term:

- ✓ A warm coat and/or a waterproof coat (on wet days)
- ✓ A hat
- ✓ A pair of gloves
- ✓ Wellies
- ✓ A drink of water in their own bottle. (We always provide milk or water at snack time.)
- ✓ A snack of one piece of fruit OR vegetable OR plain/savoury biscuit OR yoghurt OR piece of cheese in a named container or bag. (Please only provide ONE item of food so that we can enjoy a quick snack and then move onto the next activity. Please do not provide crisps, chocolate, sweet biscuits or anything containing nuts).

All your child's belongings must be NAMED so that we can make sure the items go back home!
Thank you for your help with this.

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ORAL HEALTH PROMOTION

Did you know that **Oral Health Promotion** is now part of our Early Years' Curriculum? We will be introducing some fun activities into our Curriculum during this term, to help support you with this, such as the following top tips for encouraging your children to brush their teeth:-



- ◇ Children need help with brushing until they are at least seven years old.
- ◇ Get a fun toothbrush that your child looks forward to using.
- ◇ Try a reward system such as a toothbrushing chart.
- ◇ Be a good role model—show your child that you brush your teeth.
- ◇ Use an app, sing or play music to make the two minutes fly by.
- ◇ Help your child to brush their teeth twice a day for two minutes using the right fluoride toothpaste.
- ◇ Help your child to brush just before bed and at one other time of the day.
- ◇ Make sure your child brushes all surfaces of their teeth.
- ◇ Choose snacks and drinks which are kinder for your child's teeth such as: cheese • crackers or breadsticks • fresh fruit and vegetables • water • milk
- ◇ Do not put a child to bed with milk or juice as this can lead to serious tooth decay.



Visit www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/dental-services-oxfordshire/our-service/resources for more information and top tips. There are also some excellent websites for you to get some more ideas for healthier lunch boxes and snacks, and ideas for swapping favourite snacks such as chocolate biscuits for more healthier options - [Healthier Families - Home - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) for more ideas.
Remember: 'What's good for your tummy is good for your teeth!'

The dates for **Term 3** run from Wednesday 5th January until we finish for half term on Friday 18th February 2022. (There will be an extended hours' session on 18th February.) We then have a break of one week, returning on Monday 28th February 2022 to **Term 4**.

Easter holidays are from Friday 8th April, when the session finishes at 12.00 noon, until our return to **Term 5** on Monday 25th April 2022. If you are in any doubt about term dates, please check our website for this information.

And Finally

If you would like to talk to your child's Key Person about any aspect of your child's care and education, please do not hesitate to have a chat with us or drop us an email.

We plan to hold a parent's evening for all those children who are going onto School this year in the Spring and will let you have details of the dates soon. We wish you a very happy and enjoyable term.

Best Wishes from Mrs Edwards, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Cheswick