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Newsletter

October/ November 2010

New Year, new Committee

Following the AGM held on 7th September and a further Committee meeting held on 21st September we have emerged with new Committee members, Chair and Treasurer. We bid farewell to Andy Young, Simon Haynes, Julie Waters and the outgoing members of last year's committee and thank them wholeheartedly for their hard work during the last year. Currently the Committee Members are:

Chair	Julia Warren
Treasurer	Steve Baker
Secretary	Sarah Case
General Members	Andy Young
	Nina Holway
	Daria Koeller
	Sharon Downing
	Kelly Windsor Burgin
	Louise Leaver
	Helen Hernandez

(new group photo of the Committee coming soon to be displayed in the pre-school entrance above the fruit bowl)

The new committee has had an exciting start to the year with good ideas and energy obvious during the last meeting, which we are hopeful will make for an entertaining year, watch this space! As ever we are always on the lookout for new members or volunteers to assist with activities and events so if you are interested please speak to a committee member. Likewise for fundraising ideas, if you know of an event which would help generate funds and which the children can enjoy then equally let us know.

Halloween Fancy Dress Disco (No adults in fancy dress please)

Our first big event is the disco which will take place in the main hall in Crossbow House on Friday 29th October starting at 6:30pm and ending around 9pm.

Last year was a huge success and we will build on that winning formula with plenty of things to eat, drink, win and dance to. Sold out event - Ticket holder only please. Yummees, the local caterer based on Bristol Road will be there to cook fresh bacon and sausage rolls from the griddle and there will also be a selection of cold rolls too! All profits from this event will be going to the pre-school so make sure you starve yourselves before coming along!



Did you know? – Yummees cater for children's parties too at competitive rates, why not give them a ring on 01454 850885.



Moving into Winter & Spare Clothes

As the cooler weather sets in we would still like to take children outside where possible to explore what autumn brings us, so warm winter clothing is essential combined with suitable footwear please, thank you.

We would also like to ask for donations of any spare wellies, gloves, scarves and hats you may have suitable in size for 2-5 years old, wellie sizes 6-13 please.

Spare clothes brought in your child's bag in the morning particularly come in handy if their clothing they are wearing becomes wet or soiled and we encourage all parents to bring spares wherever possible for the children's comfort, thank you.

Christmas Bazaar

We will be holding our annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 4th December. As is tradition with this event all pre-school families are welcome as well as any other friends and family who wishes to come along, the more the merrier. There are many tables and stalls planned as well as mince pies and refreshments.

We do need volunteers to help with the running of stalls on the day and to help with the sale of the raffle tickets prior to the event. Raffle tickets sales is key to ensuring that not only to the village community have a chance of winning some wonderful prizes, but the revenue generated by the ticket sales significantly helps the pre-school raise money for the children. Some excellent prizes have been donated by local businesses whom have been tirelessly canvassed by the Fundraising Committee and we would very much appreciate tickets sold to friends, family, relatives, work colleagues or your neighbours. Parent packs will be appearing in your child's drawer soon.

Last year a luxury hamper was won by a lady in Winterbourne who is not directly connected to the pre-school, had many relatives staying with her on Christmas day, and had lost her husband the previous Christmas. Needless to say that the look of joy on her face when presented with the hamper embodies why it is important to give back to the local community.

Please let Nikki Davies know if you can help on 07883 301460.

Let's Grow Vouchers

As some of you will know the supermarket chain Morrisons is currently running a voucher scheme that can be used to buy seeds, pots and other planting equipment to allow the children to grow their own plants and vegetables. The pre-school is registered to collect the Let's Grow vouchers and would be grateful if you have any lying around the house or acquire any, please hand them in during the first 2 weeks of November so we can apply for some gardening equipment for the children.



Support for the Running of the Pre-school

Many of you will know that the pre-school is a registered charity, however it is worth mentioning again in case you were not aware. The pre-school is run by a volunteer committee mainly made up of parents of children who attend the pre-school. None of the committee members are paid for these roles and perform their duties as General Members in their own time.

Year upon year, the pre-school manages to ensure that its outgoings do not exceed the modest amount of funding we receive from the government.

"How do you do this" you might ask?

Well, we rely heavily on the group support from the families and friends or those who attend the pre-school and are interested in its future for the sake of their children present and future. This support can come in many forms from monetary donations through events held for the children, through material donations to help run the craft element of the sessions or simply by helping out every once in a while.

The Manager/Leader is always looking to maximise the quality of the sessions for the children whilst maintaining a budget, which is not easy! Materials are costly but essential and we appreciate any support from as little as 1 pencil or 1 piece of card. The staff will be displaying a list of items they are collecting, usually by the signing in sheet in the main hall for anyone who is interested.

Alternatively if you have any items at home and think that they would make great craft materials then let Nanda or a member of staff know.

Session Support by Parents

We occasionally need support during the sessions from parents who may be free to help out. A rota sheet is displayed on the drawer unit in the hallway in case anyone feels they would like to help, particularly during snack time and washing up, thank you.

Toys from Home

Children often feel that they wish to bring in items from home to play with and that is perfectly OK with us. Please help us to manage this by ensuring your child understands that they may have to share their toy if they bring it into the session! As it is not an item owned by the pre-school we cannot be held

responsible for accidental loss or breakage of the home toys so try to keep the precious or favourite items safe at home.

Children's Absence from Sessions

If your child is absent from a session that they were booked to attend could you please give the pre-school a quick call on our mobile, the number is 07928 381976. For absences of a week or longer (holiday or sickness) we need a letter from the parent/carer in accordance with the requirements under the NEG funding scheme.

Electrical Testing Complete

All of the pre-school portable electrical appliances have now been PAT tested by the lovely people at Abacus Electrical Services free of charge! Thank you to Abacus for this valuable service in maintaining a safe working environment.

A Date for your Diary

The Pre-school will be holding its Christmas Party for the children on Thursday 16th December, more details to follow. As with all the advertised events keep your eye on our website www.crossbowpreschool.co.uk, where the events are listed on the Diary page.

And Finally.....

Christmas Puds anyone?

You will find attached to this newsletter a letter explaining how the pre-school will be raising money by helping to sell scrumptious a variety of luxury puddings on behalf of The Ultimate Plum Pudding Company.

This award winning company has kindly offered its delicious puddings, complete with a unique Crossbow Pre-school label and message, as a joint venture to help both parties during the festive period. If you wish to order one of these fine puddings then please complete the order form at the back of the letter. With their Ultimate Chocolate Pudding and Triple Ginger Pudding amongst those on offer, the most complicated part will be deciding which variety to choose!

Have a Great Half Term, see you all soon.