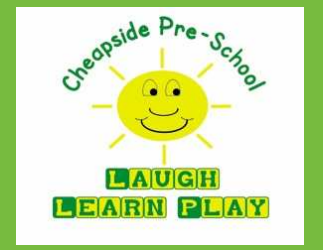


NEWSLETTER

March 2016 - SPRING TERM - Term 4 2015/2016



Although this is quite a short half term, we have lots of exciting news to tell you about and some fabulous activities to fit in before we break up for the Easter holidays! Firstly, we would like to welcome our new starter Hugo and his family to pre-school. We hope you have lots of fun at Cheapside.

So, here we go, brace yourselves, put your feet up with a cuppa and enjoy!

New Routine

As part of our settings self evaluation, we have been looking at our daily routines and structure and how these impact on the children's learning and enjoyment of the activities. We decided to run a trial and by allowing the session to run smoothly without constant interruption, we have noticed a big difference in the calmness and focus of the children, where previously, we seemed to be constantly rushing. By allowing the children to remain engaged in their activities instead of limiting their time, more learning opportunities have been observed by all the key persons, leading us to believe that the tweaking has worked! To make the new routine clearer for you all, a short break down can be found below (the same routine applies morning and afternoon) but please ask if you would like us to explain any of it to you.

Register at the beginning of the sessions – answering names, filling in the weather chart, days, months, seasons, any special show and tell items or news. This usually last for approx. 10 minutes.

Free choice play (inside or out) and key person group or individual time.

Any adult planned activity e.g. baking is offered during this time.

After 1 – 1 1/2 hours into the session, the snack is made available. This is prepared by any children who volunteer to help. Fruit and veg. and crackers, plus milk and water, are served at the table for those who wish to partake. The number varies daily. We have noticed that some children are eating better at lunch time if they don't have a snack.

If a child chooses not to have a snack, they must drink water (they are very good!).

If children are not having a snack, they can continue to play.

Approximately 10 minutes before the end of a session, all the children must stop their activities and help to tidy up. We feel it is really important that the children realise that they can't just walk away from any equipment without helping to pack away.

If a child chooses not to go out in a morning session and they are at pre-school all day, they must go out at lunch time for fresh air and exercise, this is non negotiable!

On a day where there is an extra curricular activity booked, all the children due to take part do so, whilst any others have the pick of the activities.

We are extremely pleased with the way the sessions are developing and feel that we would like to continue with our new routines - we hope you do too.

We have also begun to re-vamp our outdoor space to make it even more exciting. We have purchased new equipment (both inside and out) and added to our resources. We have laid paving slabs around the sand box, lowered the sand into the ground, will be adding a weaving wall and pulley system to the sand area, have created a more defined mud kitchen area, created a water exploration station and added new learning boards around the gazebo and shed. We will continue with our tweaking, as the children seem to be thoroughly enjoying it.

Session Times

Please could we respectfully remind you that the session times for your children need to be adhered to with regards to early drop off or late pickups. The afternoon sessions commence at 12.00 for funded and 12.15 for non funded, so please do not arrive before those times.

If you are late picking up this can have an adverse effect on our staff/child ratios, lunch club or the after school club. Unfortunately, we have to adhere to our policies and issue a fine of £5 if you are late 3 times picking up.

Learning Journeys

As a setting, we are always looking at ways we can make you feel more a part of your child's pre-school experience. To this end, we are considering putting their learning journeys online so you can access them at your convenience. You would also be able to receive a notification when an observation has been made and see photographs and videos of your child engaged in activities. Please bear with us as this is completely new territory for us, so it may be quite challenging! We may also not be able to use the system for the children leaving in July, as the amount of information contained in their learning journeys may be too much to import, but we will do our best to figure out if it is possible. We'll keep you informed.

Easter Fun

On **Thursday 24th March 8.45 – 11.30** we would love to invite parents/carers and relatives, to join us for a morning of fun Easter activities. We'll be engaging in craft, having Easter egg hunts, holding a raffle, enjoying refreshments and ending the term with a flourish.

Everyone is welcome, even if it's not your child's usual day or time. If you have any donations for our raffle, that would be wonderful. We need: Easter eggs, baskets, books, ribbons and cakes for our cake stall and anything else you can think of! We hope to see you then!

Easter Rainbow Club will be running for 3 days – Monday 4th, Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th April 8.00-6.00 or 9.00-3.00. If you would like a space for your child, please book asap as places are going fast rainbowkidsclubbookings@gmail.com

Help Needed

We are very lucky to have our lovely 'Gardening Grandma and Grandad' who volunteer to come into the pre-school every Thursday morning. Unfortunately, for health reasons, they are unable to join us for the next few months so we would love to hear from anyone who would be able to give an hour or two a week to help us look after our garden and get ready for the planting season. We would be very grateful for any help offered, so please let Mrs Shaw know if you can. Thank you.

Reminders

1. Please label everything
2. One pair of indoor shoes and one pair of outdoor boots/shoes
3. Clothes that can get dirty as it's very muddy outside
4. Draw string bag not rucksacks
5. No nuts (including peanut butter) sweets, chocolate bars in packed lunches
6. Full set of spare clothes
7. Please adhere to your child's session times
8. As a safety precaution, we have been advised that small tomatoes and grapes should be cut lengthways to avoid the risk of blocking a child's airway and choking

Admin contacts

All Invoice queries inc RKC / Uniform/ Website - please email lisa@cheapsidepreschool.co.uk

Ongoing session changes and funding queries (not ad hoc) - email caroline@cheapsidepreschool.co.uk (not Lisa Naji)

Rainbow Kids Club (non finance queries) - call 01344 627111 or email rainbowkidsclubbookings@gmail.com - please ensure all extra sessions go in the book

Rota – come and join us!

Would you like to come to pre-school to join us for an hour and see how much fun we all have?! The parent/carer rota is located on the WOW board and if you would like to spend some time

with us, just pop your name up and we'll look forward to seeing you.

Parent Evenings

These will be held on Monday 14th and Monday 21st March 3.30 – 5.20. There is a list in pre-school for you to book your 10 minute appointment with your child's key person.

Please don't feel that you have to attend, it is entirely up to you. If you would prefer an appointment during the day, please just ask.

May Ball

We are busily getting ready for the highlight of our social activities, the fantastic May Ball. This year it will be on Friday 13th May at the stunning Northcote House, Sunningdale. If you would like to join us, tickets cost £45 which includes a welcome drink, 3 course dinner, dancing and silent and live auction. It is always an amazing event and a great chance to get together and raise money for our charity The Nest children's home in Kenya, and our pre-school.

Please try and join us as the money we raise makes such a difference to the children at The Nest, who have all suffered unimaginable hardship and pain. Many have been left traumatised by abuse and neglect, but with the love and care they receive at The Nest, their lives can be transformed. By joining us at the ball, you can play your part and help to alleviate some of their distress, as monies raised can provide them with a loving environment in which they can thrive.

Please contact Sam Fenton samanthafenton1@googlemail.com if you would like to join us. Tables are for 10 people but if you are a couple or on your own, please don't worry, as we will look after you and put you with someone you know!

Auction prizes – we are looking for any donations great or small, that we can put in our silent or live auction.

Important Dates for your Diary

24th March - Easter fun morning 8.45 – 11.30

25th March – 8th April Easter holidays

4th, 5th & 6th April – Rainbow Kids Club

13th May – May Ball at Northcote House

19th May – Orienteering morning 8.45-12.30

30th May – 3rd June Whitsun holidays

14th – 17th June – Royal Ascot. You are all invited to come for a picnic any day (Tuesday – Friday) at the village hall, then join us to see the royal procession.

8th July – Forest school trip (confirmed) Would anyone like to join us for the day as a volunteer?

15th July – Primary school leavers party

15th July – End of term

Happy Easter!