



# Newchurch Pre-School News

September/October 2019

## Newchurch Pre-School

### Welcome to the Autumn Term @ Newchurch

As we make a start to this academic year, we would like to welcome all our children and families back to Pre-School, we hope you have had a lovely summer making lots of treasured memories.

We also welcome lots of new children and families who have joined us this September and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Newchurch Pre-School as your childcare provider, we are certain your child will thoroughly enjoy their time with us at Pre-School. This half term is set to be a busy one as together we all adapt to our new room layout, which provides a variety of opportunities and areas for the children to explore, a loose parts and curiosity approach, along with for many of our children a new routine.

Our routine is displayed upon the notice board upon the top desk within the room, if you have any questions about any elements of the routine please speak to a member of the team.

### Daily Belongings to bring to Pre-School

Just a gentle reminder of the belongings you child needs to bring to Pre-School on each of their sessions;

- A water bottle
- A bag containing at least two changes of clothes (this is essential not just for toilet training but in the event of your child getting wet from outdoor play or spilling a drink etc.)
- A coat/jacket appropriate for the weather (we open outside in all weathers except strong winds and heavy rain)
- Lunch Bag (pm & full day sessions only) containing a healthy and nutritious packed lunch.
- Nappies and Wipes if appropriate (We change the children each morning and afternoon, please ensure you provide enough nappies for these routine changes and for any additional nappy changes your child may need.

Please ensure your children's belongings are clearly labelled with their names.

All children will have their photo on their coat peg so that they all have a dedicated place to place their belongings.

### Non Attendance

If your child is going to be absent from any of their booked sessions at Pre-School please can you ensure you notify us of this absence by calling/texting us on 07980467195. If you send us a message on Facebook we cannot guarantee that we will be able to read this during the operational hours of the Pre-School, so calling or texting is a effective way of ensuring we pick up the message.

If we do not hear from you, and your child does not attend their session we are required as part of our Safeguarding procedures to follow this up so a member of the management team will contact you to discover why your child has not attended their planned session.

### Outdoor Play

It is essential that young children have frequent and regular opportunities to explore and learn within the outdoor environment. The Early Years Foundation Stage places a strong emphasis on the importance, and value of daily outdoor experiences for children's learning and development.

We open our garden at Pre-School every morning and afternoon for the children to freely access in all weather types. As we approach the cooler and wetter months please can you ensure that your child has the appropriate outdoor clothing i.e. waterproof coat, hat, scarf, gloves, wellies etc. for each of their sessions.

### Notice Board

Our 'Parents Notice Board' is located within the entrance hall. Upon the board you will find lots of useful information from our recent Ofsted report, key worker groups, snack menu, stay and play dates and much more.

We will also be using this board to display current action plans so you can see what developments we are currently working on within the Pre-School be sure to check the board frequently to keep up to date with the most current information.

### Packed Lunches

A number of children will be having lunch with us as. Lunch is an important meal for children to provide energy and nutrients to keep them going throughout the afternoon. The key to a healthy packed lunch is variety and getting the right balance of foods to provide children with all the nutrients they need to stay healthy. Research has shown that getting children to enjoy healthy food from an early age is the way to help them eat well for the rest of their lives.

Whilst we acknowledge the need to provide the children with a well balanced packed lunch, we also understand this can sometimes be difficult when trying to keep ideas fresh to maintain variety and to break eating habits of children. To support with this, we have produced our own guidance leaflet for Healthy Packed Lunches which you will find attached with this newsletter.

Including grapes in your child's lunch box?

Whole grapes and other similarly shaped foods such as cherry tomato's are a choking hazard as their are ideally suited to cause paediatric airway obstruction.

If you pack grapes or similarly shaped foods into your child's lunch box please can you ensure these have been cut in half length ways to prevent a choking hazard.

Grapes should always be cut length ways so they can pass more easily through smaller throats and never width ways, as by cutting width ways they are still big enough to choke on.

Any grapes that have not been cut will be returned in the children's lunchboxes.

### Loose Parts

Our vision for Pre-School is to create a natural and curious environment by moving away from the limitations of plastic toys and providing children with open ended, loose part materials to stimulate their learning, creativity and problem solving experiences.

To support this vision we have worked hard through the summer to completely revamp and re-organise the learning environments for the children. This is the start of a new but exciting journey for the Pre-School where we will all be learning together as we embrace this approach. To provide you with more information on the theory of loose parts play we have put together a small information leaflet which you will find attached with this newsletter. If you have any questions about this change and approach, please feel free to speak to a member of staff.

### Children's Toys

To prevent children's personal belongings such as toys, from getting lost or broken, can we also ask that you discourage your child from bringing their own toys into Pre-School. We have plenty and a good range of activities available for the children on a daily basis and do not want to see any of our children unnecessarily upset if their favourite toy gets lost. If children bring a toy with them to Pre-School they will be asked to hand it to parents to take home with them as we have no places of storage for these.

Comforters used whilst children are settling or for the use at nap times can be brought with them.

### Upcoming Events/Dates for your Diary

We will be holding our first stay and play session of the Autumn Term on **Wednesday 23rd October 2018 10am-11.30am**. This will be an exciting opportunity to come and share some valuable play experiences with your child. During this session we will also be showing you what our 'Dough Disco' involves and inviting you to join in with us.

If your child does not normally attend on a Wednesday, you are more than welcome to still join us for this session during the specified times.

### Birthdays

**Birthdays this Half Term;**

This half term we wish a 'Happy Birthday' to Isabelle, Gracie, Frankie and Joe, we hope you enjoy your special day.