

Greatworth Pre-School

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making learning fun

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Newsletter

Term 3-4 2016

What the Children have been doing:

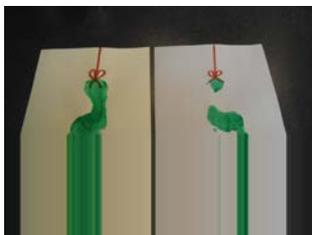
Happy New Year from all of us at Greatworth Pre-School.

As you can imagine with the run up to Christmas last month the children were very busy. They painted some beautiful snow globes, made some Christmas tree decorations, ginger bread houses and mince pies. As well as lots of craft activities last month, our preschool children were invited in to the setting to take part in a Christmas craft evening where we had mulled wine and mince pies for the adults and a buffet for the children. They went around the tables with their parents and made lots of Christmas crafts. It was a lovely evening where children could enjoy having one of their parents in the setting as well as staff having the opportunity to talk to parents. We also hope all parents enjoyed meeting and chatting to other parents that attend our setting. We look forward to doing it next year.

Here are some images of our Christmas activities...



Marshmallow snowmen and biscuit lodges!



Our 'mistletoes'!

During the first week back after our Christmas break we have taken part in some messy activities, including winter painting by using wintery colours and 'gelli' play which is brightly colored gunge! The children loved building gelli castles and watching them wobble over! We have also created a shoe shop in the role play area where staff will be working with children to measure their feet and explore money. The shoe shop allows children to progress in many areas of their development as it provides opportunity for developing and exploring a range of skills and knowledge that the children already have required out of the setting.

wanted unwanted shoes and wellies to go in to our role play area as well as any shoe boxes to ensure we can keep the role play area going this term. As you can imagine, it doesn't take long for shoe boxes to get broken!

NEW!

At Pre-School we now have a program called Tapestry which allows us to track your child's development and progress electronically. What this means is that you will now see observations and termly tracking documents through logging on to a secure system and viewing your child's profile. This will replace the red portfolios which will now be used as folders for children's art work only. Staff are currently getting used to using the new system and we are aiming to make it go live to parents after the February half term. There will be more details to follow very soon.

New starters:

We would like to welcome Ollie, Ben and Marlee in to Pre-School. We hope they have enjoyed their first week at Pre-School.

Birthdays: Happy Birthday to Mollie who will be turning three this term. Hope you have a fantastic time celebrating with your families.

Sessions:

I would like to make you all aware that many of our sessions are now full based on the current staffing that we have in place. Therefore, if you are considering changing sessions or upping sessions next term, please speak to Katy as soon as possible. If you also wish for an adhoc session, we also require a minimum 24 hours' notice and will try and accommodate your request if possible.

Can I also remind you that if you are dropping or changing sessions we also require a months' notice on sessions. If we do not receive a months' notice on changes, sessions will be charged.

Fundraising:

Ink cartridges

Thank you for all the ink cartridge donations. We are still keen to continue raising funds by recycling all your donated cartridges/toners. We would also like to ask for any HP 301 cartridges if anyone has these. Pre-School use these cartridges and by recycling five at Staples in Banbury we get a large discount. The reduced price is from £18.99p to £8.99p for a pack of two cartridges. Across the term this saves us a lot of money which means we can spend money saved on much more exciting resources!

Past and future events:

November Carry out curry night.

Once again thank you so much for your support at our 'Carry out Curry night'. We made an amazing £425, giving us a profit of £280. This now means with the funds raised at the fireworks and the curry night, we are almost half way towards raising £2800 which will be going towards making improvements to our security gates. Pre-School will be arranging another curry night later on in the academic year when we will also be adapting the menu slightly.

Cheesy Disco:

Pre-School will be holding another Cheesy Disco on February 27th at 7:30pm. It was a very successful evening last year so we hope more people can make it. Included in the evening is a complimentary drink token on arrival, cheese platter, disco, photo booth and 'cheesy' accessories. We will also have a bar running throughout the evening. Please look out for more information in the February Glimpse, posters around the village and also via our Facebook page and website which is currently being up-dated. We strongly recommend that tickets are bought in advance to ensure we cater for the correct amount.

Dates for the diary

Parents' evening:

Parents' evening will be going ahead during the week commencing 22nd of February (week after half term). Further details will be confirmed in the next couple of weeks as well as the time slots being placed in the cloak room area. Please look out for these so you can choose a convenient time to meet with your child's key person. If you are unable to attend, please do not hesitate to book another time and date with your key person. Katy will ensure that staff are allocated time out if parents are unable to attend the evening.

Term dates:

4th of January - 24th of March 2016

4th of January - Return to Pre-School.

12th of February - Pre-School breaks up for February half term.

22nd of February - Return to Pre-School.

24th of March - Pre-School breaks up for Easter break.

11th of April - Return to Pre-School.

Thank you for your continued support

Pre-School staff.