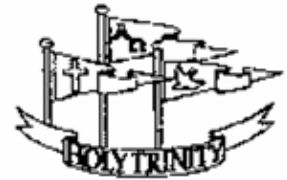




**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
BROAD CROFT, BRADLEY STOKE
BRISTOL, BS32 0BD**



Registered Charity 104678

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2011

As our first term ends we hope everybody has settled in to Pre-school and that the children have enjoyed their first few weeks. As a staff team we are looking forward to a break but also have had a great term with much to celebrate - Ofsted, Sadie's wedding, Alison settling into the team well and lots of happy settled children. We welcome back Mrs Gregory to the team - congratulations on your wedding, we hope you had a great time in Mexico and are ready to face the term ahead.

On Wednesday 12th October Pre-school held their AGM and a new committee was elected. Minutes of the meeting will be available shortly for all to read on the noticeboard. Thank you to the parents/carers who attended the AGM and particularly to those who have come forward to help.

The new committee is as follows:

Chairperson:	Sue Arnold	
Treasurer:	Sally Barrow	
Secretary:	Iuliana Moldovan	
Fundraisers and Parent reps:	Margo Shaddick	Katrina Niblett
	Alison Hugo	Vickie Osborne

If you are unsure of who any of the committee are please speak to a member of staff. We hope to have their pictures on the noticeboard shortly. The fundraisers will be sending out a letter after half term to introduce themselves and tell you how you can support them.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE FROM LAST YEAR

On our last newsletter we reported that we would be purchasing enough raincoats and trousers for all children to wear at Pre-school. After careful thought and consideration we have realised that this is not going to be practical but instead have put some of last year's fundraising money to the purchase of a woodworking bench which arrived last week. We were going to start using it this term but due to having the presence of some parent helpers this week (including 2 dads - thank you) we were able to use it this week and the children had a great time, no accidents! We hope to provide this as continuous provision but it will always be supervised by an adult at all times therefore if this is an area anyone really enjoys we would encourage you to come in and share your skills or just generally help out, even half an hour can make a difference. We are sure we will also be requiring lots of wood and nails, etc so again any donations are always gratefully received.

OFSTED

As most of you will be aware we had a visit from Ofsted at the end of the fifth week of term. We are happy to say that we are very pleased with the outcome of this and you will be able to read their report in more detail once it appears on their website during the next week or so. We would like to thank everyone for their support on this day and especially the children whose behaviour in the report was described as 'exemplary'!

OBSERVATIONS AND TARGET CHILDREN

Most of you will have received your child's learning diary and a summary of how they have settled in/settled back in to Pre-school; if you haven't you will receive it during the first week back after half term. From this term onwards we will be focussing on groups of children (target children) each week and making more detailed observations on them. Each child will be targeted at least once a term and by observing them in this way we hope to look at their interests in more detail. At the end of each week all these observations will be collated in order to inform our planning for the following week. Your child's keyperson will inform you when your child will be a target child through their yellow book and will ask you to share anything about them (eg current interests, family events). We hope you will feel able to assist us in this and ask any questions you may have in order that you and your child receive maximum benefit.

TALKING WITH STAFF

We hope you already know that we operate an open door policy at Pre-school and we are keen for parents to feel they can talk with staff and come into Pre-school as often as they would like to. There is always a member of staff in the foyer at the beginning and end of each session who will try to help you with any queries or make sure that you see the person you want to as soon as possible. At the end of the day (3pm) it can often be very hectic and any talk with parents can appear rather rushed; therefore we would suggest that if you know in advance you would like to speak to someone we would appreciate this being done either at the beginning of the session or if necessary we could arrange to meet with you a little earlier than the end of the session. Thank you in advance for your understanding on this matter - please keep talking to us!

PHOTOGRAPHER THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

A photographer will be visiting us on Friday 3rd November to take individual photos and family photos if required. If your child does not attend a Thursday session and you would like their photo taken or if you would like a photo taken with siblings please see a member of staff to arrange a time; if you have friends outside of Pre-school who may be interested please let us know and we would be happy to make an appointment for them too. The photographs are quite reasonably priced and in the past have been of good quality. As always there is no obligation to buy, you will have a chance to see proofs first.

VISIT TO PETS AT HOME THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

We are always keen to get out and about in the local area and find opportunities to enhance children's learning. We have arranged a visit to 'Pets at Home' on Thursday 10th November at 1.30pm and will walk from Pre-school at approximately 12.45pm in order to get there. All children who usually attend a Thursday afternoon will be walking with the staff (we will need a few parents to assist us) and any other children are welcome to join us with a parent or carer. You can walk from Pre-school or meet us there as long as we know who is coming. The visit should last about an hour and children can be picked up from the store at 2.30pm.

CHRISTMAS - HOME AND AWAY

As a Pre-school we are always keen to develop children's understanding of the wider world around them and their families. With Christmas fast approaching we would like you to consider this in two ways.

1. You should all have been given a shoebox leaflet with your yellow books this week and if you feel you would like to give a child or adult who is less fortunate than us a Christmas gift we will be collecting filled shoeboxes until Sunday 6th November. The children who come on the following Tuesday usually have a chance to help put these on the lorry. If you feel unable to support this fully but have a few of the items in your cupboard or can put an extra item in your shopping trolley

over the next week we will also put together some boxes with the children during the first week back at Pre-school.

2. If you have a family member who lives abroad who you would like to send a Christmas greeting to we would love to support the children to make them a card and take it to the post office to buy the stamps to send it on its way. Please speak to your child's keyperson in the first week back to discuss this and provide further details.

CHRISTMAS AT PRE-SCHOOL

All the staff love Christmas at Pre-school but we do try to contain this until 1 December in order to not get everyone overexcited! However we know that many parents are keen to know when our end of term Nativity is and the timings to make sure that you can be there for it. The last official day of Pre-school is Tuesday 13th December but we will be having a Nativity on Wednesday 14th December where all children will dress up (if they wish) and perform a fairly traditional short play. Following this there will be a party which all parents and carers will be welcome to join in with. We really want to celebrate with everyone this year and the format will be slightly different than previous years. We envisage children arriving about 11, getting costumes on ready to perform at 11.30 and the nativity lasting no longer than half an hour. Following this we will have a big party where we can all share in some food and celebration.

CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SNACKS

Please find attached a slip to be returned with your child's snack money for the term. The suggested charge for this is a minimum of 20p per morning/afternoon session your child attends. As this term is a 6 week term this will mean children attending 2 sessions should pay £2.40, 3 sessions £3.60, 4 sessions £4.80 and 5 sessions £6.00. Where possible please can you give the correct amount and place any monies you are paying to us in a clearly marked envelope. If you do require change make sure that this is clear.

REMINDER - CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2012

Just a reminder that if your child is due to start school next September it is important that you make an application to South Gloucestershire council by **15th January 2012** of your preferred choice of primary school. We have tried to advertise as many of the schools open days on our noticeboard but if you require any further help please speak to a member of staff.

SUITABLE CLOTHING

Please can you make sure that your child has a pair of wellies (as well as indoor shoes) with them at all times. Please also make sure your child has a suitable jacket, gloves and hat which will keep them warm and dry. We will be going outside in all weathers this term. We do have some spares if you forget on the odd occasion or you can purchase a waterproof coat and trouser set for £12 through us - please ask to see a sample. Please make sure all clothing is practical and not expensive or precious as we will be getting mucky!!

REMINDER - COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

Please could you collect your children on time from pre-school as this often causes distress for them, also staff have a very limited time to set up for the next session or to vacate the rooms before Kids Klub use them. If you are unavoidably delayed please contact us as soon as possible on 07726 952380 (this number should also be used for any enquiries, messages during the pre-school session).

COMPLAINTS/SUGGESTIONS

We hope you will be happy with the service we provide at Pre-school. However if you do have a complaint please see Rachel (Pre-school leader) in the first instance where hopefully the problem can be discussed and resolved promptly. If Rachel is unable to sort it or you feel the matter is more serious the chair of the committee can be contacted. Our Complaints procedure is available for all to read on the notice board or in our policies and procedures manual next to the noticeboard. We are always happy to receive suggestions from parents about ways of improving various aspects of the Pre-school and will be happy to discuss these with you. If you wish to remain anonymous a suggestion box can be found next to the noticeboard.

FINALLY..... If you have any queries about any aspects of Pre-school or you are unsure of anything mentioned on the newsletter please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support at Pre-school. Looking forward to a great term 2.

Rachel, Ann, Linda, Naomi, Sadie, Denise and Alison
THE PRE-SCHOOL TEAM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (more information to follow shortly if not mentioned above)

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Thursday 3 November | - | Photographer |
| Thursday 10 November | - | Visit to Pets at Home 1.30pm |
| Saturday 3 December | - | Holy Trinity School Christmas Fayre with Pre-school Stall |
| Tuesday 13 December | - | Last full day of Pre-school |
| Wednesday 14 December | - | Christmas Party and Nativity |
| | - | |
| Tuesday 3 January 2012 | - | Pre-school reopens (Term 3 begins) |

(Please return the attached slip in a sealed marked envelope with your payment - many thanks)

CONTRIBUTION FOR SNACKS

Minimum contribution is number of sessions attended per week x (6) weeks in term x 20 pence

Childs name Number of sessions attended Total enclosed