



White Tree Preschool Newsletter

www.whitetreepreschool.co.uk

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'Learning together and having fun'

June 2017

Welcome back

We hope that everybody had a great half term holiday.

As the year draws to a close we will be sad to say goodbye to our school leavers. They have been a truly amazing group and they will be much missed by their younger friends as well as all the staff. We wish them well on the next step of their educational journey.

Our term dates for the next academic year are shown below – please note our inset days (when Preschool is closed for children).

Term Dates (2017-2018):

- Term 1 04 Sept–20 October
* *Inset Monday 4 September*
* *Inset Tuesday 5 September*
- Term 2 30 October–15 December
- Term 3 02 January–09 February
* *Inset Tuesday 2 January*
- Term 4 19 Feb – 23 March
- Term 5 09 April – 25 May
* *Inset Monday 09th April*
- Term 6 04 June – 24 July
* *Inset Tuesday 24 July*

Inset Days are used for: Home visits for new starters, preparing the learning environment and Continuing Professional Development of the staff.



Messy Church

is on Wednesdays:

June 21st and July 19th at 3.30pm onwards at Westbury Park Methodist Church. There is an hour of craft, a short service and everyone has dinner together, finishing at roughly 6pm.

Change of Routine



We have been trialling some changes to our morning routine which have been extremely positive.

We have moved the small group activities to later in the morning. They are now after snack time—this means the children have renewed energy and focus for their group learning activities.

Snack time is earlier which means there is a longer gap between snack and lunch. This helps the children to eat more of their packed lunch and behave brilliantly during lunch club.

You may have noticed that we are starting Apple Tree time earlier at 9.30. This gives us some extra time at the end of the morning to do more of the large group activities which the children love so much e.g. movement and dance, music and group games.

The children have responded fantastically well to these changes and using our visual timetable has helped them to feel secure with the changing routines. We have noticed better focus and great behaviour which means the children are happy and able to thrive.

Mindfulness

The children have been learning about the joys of mindfulness! We have had some 'Mindful Minutes' at preschool where we put on the sand timer for 1 minute and do an activity based on mindfulness principles. Things we have tried so far are: examining a leaf (the pre-school garden needed pruning!), blowing gently on our hands and playing with white tac. After the minute is up we have talked about our findings and noticed how we feel when we slow down and think about little details. These activities work particularly well at transition times. Maybe you can try it at home and share your ideas with us?



Safety Procedures

In light of recent threats to public safety, we would like to reassure you that we have rigorous policies and procedures in place to safeguard your children.

We have regular Fire Drills and we also conduct regular Lock Downs or 'Safe Inside' rehearsals with the children.

The rehearsals are carried out in a child-friendly way and safety discussions are at an appropriate level for very young children.

Wellies



If you are clearing out used wellies in good condition we would be very grateful for them to use during Outdoor Learning. Many of ours have sprung leaks and been thrown away! We are particularly in need of sizes 7-10. Thank you.

St Alban's Garden Party



Make a date for St Alban's Summer Garden Party. It is a fun and friendly community event on the afternoon of Saturday 8 July.

Preschool will have a stall—please help support us by giving donations for our stall (details to follow) and turning up on the day. It is a great family afternoon and the sunshine has been booked!

Please return any Special Helper bags that you may have at home. We need to restock them ready for September. With many thanks.

End of Year Party

We are delighted that **Molly Muddles** will once again treat us to a magic show at the End of Year Party on Thursday 20 July. This is a great occasion; the chance to celebrate another fantastic year at preschool and wish our older children well as they move on to primary school.

We are asking for a small, voluntary contribution of £5 per child. This will cover the cost of the entertainer and a small gift for your child. We will send further details about timings and the party food list nearer the time.

Please give voluntary contributions to any member of staff in an envelope marked with your child's name and 'Party'.



Sports Day

Sports Day is on Wednesday 28 June with a reserve date of Friday 30 June in case of rain or very wet ground.



Please collect your child as normal at 12.15. All families, (including non-Wednesday

children), to meet at 12.30 at the 'Big Tree' on the right hand side of the White Tree roundabout. There will be a family picnic followed by Sports Day. **Many thanks to Zoe** for kindly offering to lead sports day again.

Letters and Sounds



We are continuing with our Phase 1 Letters and Sounds phonic programme. Please encourage your child(ren) to bring in items beginning with the following sounds (NOT the letter name) - eg. a is for apple, (not for acorn).

19 Jun	26 Jun	03 July	10 Jul	17 Jul	23 July
r	j	v	y	w	z

We will play sound games and practice breaking words into phonemes (sounds).

Thank You



To everybody who has brought in snack items. It has been a great help for us and we do rely on your regular donations.

Please keep donating and remember to look for foods which are 'no nuts' as well as low in sugar and salt content. Many thanks!

Thanks to Ruth, Kirsty, Lydia and Laura for volunteering to set up our PTFA. Watch this space!!

Housekeeping

Please can you let us know if there are any changes to your child's details during the term, especially **contact details and medical or allergy information**. Please can you also:

- Tell us of any Bumps, bruises or anything else you think may affect your child during the session (even knowing they have had a bad nights sleep can help!)
- Tell a member of staff if your child is going home with someone other than the 'designated' adults listed on their permissions forms. We will write it in the Diary on the relevant day and ask you to initial the message. We will only be able to hand children over to someone other than those listed in the child's essential information if you have told us in advance. We hope you can appreciate that this is for the safety of all our children.
- Let us know if you are running late collecting your child at the end of the session. This helps us to reassure them, as they do understand things like 'Mummy is stuck in a traffic jam!'
- Let us know if your child will not be coming to a session because they are ill, or when there are planned absences e.g.holidays, visits to grandparents, doctors etc.
- Remember that your children are your responsibility until we have ticked them in the register (including any time spent in the hall downstairs) at the start of the morning and again once they have been handed over to you at the end of the session. **Thank you**

*Please remember to send your child with a **SUNHAT** in sunny weather.*



*Please keep an eye on the forecast and **apply all day sun-cream before preschool if appropriate**. Please remember to apply to backs of ears, necks and bare shoulders.*

We always encourage the children to drink lots of water on hot days.

The summer is a great time to think about toilet training if your child is showing signs of being ready.



We are happy to help when your child is ready to toilet train. Please dress them in clothes they can manage independently (elastic waists are ideal—tights/dungarees and clothes with buttons/zips are difficult to manage!). We will encourage and remind children (**never force them**) to use the toilet/potty.

Child Protection Statement

White Tree Pre-school has a statutory duty and pastoral responsibility towards the children in their care and we recognize that children have a fundamental right to be protected from harm. The Children Act 1989 places a duty on us to assist Social Services in their work on behalf of children in need and their enquiries into allegations of child abuse.

We all have a responsibility to safeguard children from harm and prevent the abuse or neglect of children. If you have concerns regarding a child, our Designated Child Protection Officer in the setting is **Liz Carr**, although you are welcome to approach any of us and we will ensure your concerns are dealt with appropriately.

Alternatively, you can contact:

Bristol FIRST RESPONSE 0117-9036444. Emergency out of hours (citywide) is 01454615165.

Police Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT): 0117 945 4320

NSPCC 24 hour Helpline: 0800 800 5000 (free from a landline)

NSPCC Asian Languages Helpline: 0808 800 5000 (free from a landline)

NSPCC Text helpline: 85888 (service is free and anonymous)

Complaints

If you have any complaints about Preschool staff, or the service we offer, please speak to one of the Leadership Team (Liz Carr, Sheridan Locke or Tracey Marsh) about our Complaints Procedure.

Should we be unable to resolve your complaint to your satisfaction, you can take your concerns to the Preschool Chairperson, Helen Clark, or Ofsted (Tel: 08456 404045, or write to Enquiries, Ofsted, National Business Unit, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD. Helpline: 0300 123 1231 Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/parents)