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## St. Mary's Pre-School Newsletter February 2020

Welcome back. We hope you have had a good week off.

The social team have some fun things planned, the first of which is the disco **this Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February**. We hope to see you all there and that some of you can bring some cakes to sell to the rest of us! Proceeds to the Pre-School.

Also, plans are under way for the Fun Run and Fun Day on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**. We hope that all of you will be able to be there as it will be such a good day. If you can also do something to help that will make it a little bit easier for the amazing organisers – please see Sarah Kirby (Lottie's mum), Katie Tanna (Penny's mum) or Emma McLaughlin (Frankie's mum) for possible jobs.

We are excited to have some new children joining us again this half term and hope they will settle in quickly.

### Plans for this half-term

We have a theme for each week alongside which we will be looking for signs of Spring and doing some related craft activities. We have a flexible plan which is adapted according to the interests of our children as well as what they need to help their development. We will also continue to teach Spanish to the older children.

**Week 7, w/c 24<sup>th</sup> February: Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)** – Making and racing pancakes, activities with circles, exploring gloop, pancake rhyme

Afternoons – role play shops, more activities with circles, *Knowing God* book

**Week 8, w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> March: Pirates & treasure** – pirate play, filling and decorating treasure boxes, pirate songs and rhymes

Afternoons – treasure hunts, keys, locks, clues and codes, large construction, *Lost coin* story

**Week 9, w/c 9<sup>th</sup> March: Bugs** – using magnifying glasses, bug making craft, bug rhymes and songs, bug books, hunting for real bugs

Afternoons – *There are Bugs Everywhere* book, saying 'thank you', maths activities with bugs, bug skeletons, making bug hotels

**Week 10, w/c 16<sup>th</sup> March: Mothering Sunday** – Secret things(!), mother & baby matching activities, *Mother's Day* book

Afternoons – painting Spring flowers, role play ice cream stall/restaurant

**Week 11 & 12, w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> March: Easter** – Easter crafts, traffic play, water play, Easter cooking, finding out about the Easter story, Easter songs,

Afternoons – Easter egg activities, egg hunts, Bunnies hide game, making Easter gardens

Please use this information and the feedback on the board each session to talk with your child about what they have been doing and to extend some of their learning with activities outside pre-school.

## **NEWS**

### **Fun Run and Fun Day Family Event**

Please put Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May in your diaries now as the social committee are planning a Fun Run and Family Day on the Barrack field with activities such as forest crafts, a colour run, stalls and performances and workshops run by local clubs. As we said above, the committee would be very grateful for offers of help with this - speak to Sarah, Katie, Emma or Lai if you can.

### **Coffee Mornings**

Remember that you can call in for a coffee in the Leslie Room (the extension on the back of St. Mary's Church) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after drop-off. Babies and young children are very welcome and there are toys available. This is a great place to meet other parents and children. The Leslie room is open from 8.30-9.30am - please come in the West door directly to the extension as there is a service in the Church.

### **Little Footprints**

St. Mary's Church runs a Parent and Toddler group on Friday mornings in term-time from 10 until 11.30am in the Church Centre, Causeway. A warm welcome, a variety of activities and refreshments are provided. The cost is £2 per family.

### **Governance Panel Meeting**

The pre-school governance panel will be meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. We will shortly be sending you the policies which are due to be reviewed this time. If you have any comments on these or if you have anything else you would like raised at this meeting, please speak to your representatives who are Alex (Melody's dad) and Eleanor (Matilda's mum).

### **Training**

It has been a quiet half-term for training but we have managed the following:

- Hazel – Two day Makaton course
- Lai & Karen IT – Safeguarding for Designated Persons
- Diana – Special Educational needs and inclusion co-ordinator training (Louise is our SENCO/INCO but Diana is training to support her in that role)

### **Information by email**

We will send you information electronically unless you tell us otherwise. Please make sure you tell us if your email address changes. Newsletters are sent out each half-term with occasional updates in between. Please tell us if you find you are not receiving information from us at any time in the future.

## **How you can help us this term**

### **Tapestry**

Please tell us what your children have been up to outside pre-school. This gives us a great opportunity for chatting with the children and encouraging them to share news. Please also talk to your children about the pictures we put on to encourage them to tell you what they have been doing.

### **Bark Chips**

If anyone know anyone who can supply us with bark chippings free of charge we would be very grateful. These are for the area we use in the cemetery for forest school. They limit the effects of our footfall on the trees.

Lai, Karen and the pre-school team