

St John's Preschool Newsletter – January 2024

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and are ready to get back into the swing of things. Welcome to the new children starting this term; Finley, Foord, Laurie and Willow. We can't wait to get to know you. We also want to wish Ethan and Teddy a big Happy Birthday this month.

We want to say thank you to everyone for getting involved with our fundraising efforts in December.

We made £95 from the sale of the children's Christmas cards, £20 from the scavenger hunt and Christmas jumper week and a WHOPPING £717 from the Christmas Raffle which we think might be our best yet!!

The winner of the Scavenger Hunt was Iris Stubbings and she will receive her prize on returning to preschool :)

A big thank you as well to everyone for donating to the teacher's Christmas presents, it was very generous and they were very grateful.

Staffing

You should have received an email from us about our temporary Deputy Manager, Lisa Taylor. Lisa will be starting with us on Monday 8th January for an initial period of 6 weeks, but is happy to continue longer if required. We are still recruiting for a permanent Deputy, so if you have anyone in mind that could be suitable please do tell them to get in touch! If you have any questions about this situation, please just pop us an email.

Fundraising

This month Amy is taking a well earned break, so our fundraising this month is the Bag2School collection on Tuesday 30th January. If you are having a clear out, please consider keeping your stuff aside for this collection. We will send out bags in the children's book bags as soon as we get them in the post. You can check their website <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect> for an extensive list of what they collect. Please leave your bag outside the preschool by 9am on Tuesday 30th January (but do not leave them overnight!!).

Fee Update

We sent an email out in November with information about the introduction of unfunded hours. These are session hours which you will not be able to use the 'Free 15 hours'.

These hours will be:

9am-10am

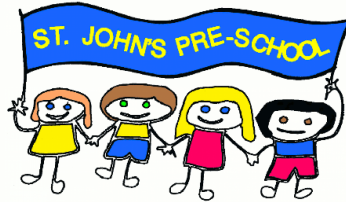
12pm - 1pm

This will mean in a 3-hour morning session, 3-4 year olds (and 2 year olds from April 2024)

Pre-School Phone: 01892 664214

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will be able to claim 2 hours of their '15 free hours' and will pay for 1 hour. In a full day (6 hours) you can claim 4 hours of 'free funding' and will pay for 2 hours which will be unfunded.

The Early Years Alliance have created an interactive explainer about the problem with so called 'free childcare' and the chronic underfunding from the government which you can find at

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/problem-free-childcare-interactive-explainer-parents-and-carers>

If you have any queries or worries about this, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Starting school in September 2024

If your child is starting school in September 2024, the deadline for application is 15th January. Please see the East Sussex website for more information

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/admissions/apply-primary>

Reminders from staff

Please ensure you label ALL personal items, and ensure your child has suitable clothing for the cold weather as we do get out in the garden every day.

Please do NOT send any products with nuts in your children's lunchbox, and please keep your child's lunch healthy.

This time of year colds and coughs are rife, so please if your child is under the weather think carefully about whether they are well enough to come in to preschool. As a general rule, if your child is poorly enough to need calpol please do not send them in. We want to limit the spread of these germs to other children as much as possible.

Term Dates

A reminder of our term dates for the remainder of this year

TERM 3 Monday 8th January 2024 to Friday 9th February 2024

TERM 4 Monday 19th February 2024 to Thursday 28th March 2024*

TERM 5 Monday 15th April 2024 to Friday 24th May 2024

TERM 6 Monday 3rd June 2024 to Friday 19th July 2024

**Note Friday 29th March is Good Friday and therefore the pre school will be closed*

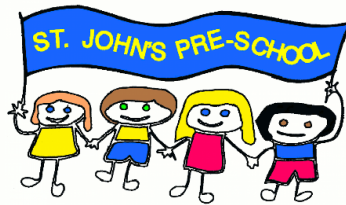
Additional Hours

We have several ad hoc spaces available. Please speak to Linda to sign your child up.

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Communication

We have set up a WhatsApp group to share updates and information from the staff and committee, including weekly plans and snack menus. If you would like to be a part of this, please send us an email on committee@stjohns-preschool.co.uk

As always please get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions,

The Preschool Committee

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