**St James’ Pre-School Newsletter**

August 2020 **Welcome to our Summer edition of the Newsletter.**

Hello everyone

It’s been a long time and we hope you are all keeping well. We are looking forward to welcoming back our children in September. For those who are starting school in September, we are hoping to arrange a reunion sometime in the Autumn and we will be in touch again nearer the time. For those children that have missed our Graduation Photograph, we may be able to organise something as we know it’s a big part of leaving Pre-School. If you are interested, please let us know.

**FUNDRAISING NEWS**

Huge thanks for your generous support for our Spring Disco in February which raised an amazing £393.89. We have placed an order for some play panels which will help us to create separate areas of learning.

Unfortunately, due to the situation with Covid-19 we were unable to arrange lots of our fundraising events such as our Easter Hat Parade, sponsored colour, Recycle for Schools and raffles. We do rely heavily on fundraising events and hope to be able to continue in the future.

We were absolutely thrilled, however, to receive an extremely generous donation of £1000 from the Freemasons of Israel after being nominated by one of our lovely parents. Also, our application to Woolton Educational Grant was successful and we received an amount of £747.60. We will be buying a new portable sink which be hugely beneficial when promoting health and hygiene with the children, a new role play kitchen, trampoline and paint easel.

**Staffing news**

A little note from Gill Martin:-

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| After 28 enjoyable years at St James’ Pre-School, I have decided to take early retirement. Due to the unusual circumstances of Covid-19 I have been unable to say goodbye to everyone. I would like to wish staff, parents and all the children staying and those going to school, all the best for the future.See you around the village!! Love Gill |

And from Sue Goudie:-

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| Due to circumstances, I have chosen to take early retirement. I would like to say that I have enjoyed my time at St James’ Pre-School and am sorry to be leaving and that I haven’t been able to say goodbye to the children, parents and grandparents. I would like to wish all the children going to school best wishes for the future – I’m sure they will all be fine. |

On behalf of the Governing Body, staff, parents and children past and present, we would like to take this opportunity to wish both Gill and Sue health and happiness for the future.

We are waiting for further guidance about the reopening of Parent and Toddler and will update you as soon as we know. The staff team are really looking forward to welcoming you all back.

During Lockdown, lots of consultation has been taking place about how to safely reopen Pre-School following Government guidance. I’m sure you’re all aware that this is constantly changing and our policies and risk assessment will be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary. Things will look different in September as we are advised to limit the number of visitors into the building. We are planning for children to be dropped off at the front door where staff will be ready to welcome them and help with hand hygiene. Appropriate signage will be in place in September if required. Prior to returning in September, staff will meet to discuss enhanced cleaning arrangements and will be carrying out a full deep clean of all equipment. As always, we would ask that children refrain from bringing personal items to pre-school. Please ensure that you continue to label items of clothing.

**St James’ Governing Body**

As always, we have vacancies on our pre-school committee. Together with input and support from the Manager, the Governing Body is responsible for the management of the pre-school including employment of staff, taking decisions, organising fundraising and policy making. If you could contribute some time, ideas or enthusiasm to Pre-school by joining our committee it would be great to hear from you!

If you have been considering joining our committee, we would love to hear from you, even if your child is leaving us for school. Your continued support would be much appreciated.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on the 22nd October 2020 at 8pm in St James’ Church. In addition, our Governing Body meets just four times per year. Dates for meetings for our next academic year will be confirmed shortly.

If you are interested or would like more information, please let Deb know and she will be happy to help. We look forward to hearing from you.

**NEWS FOR CHILDREN RETURNING TO PRE-SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER**

Fees will remain at £14.00 per session.

The administration fee will remain at £75 a year and this can be paid in three instalments of £25 at the beginning of each term. The administration fee is payable by all children including those in receipt of nursery funding. Please ensure that any money is in a named envelope as cash is not dealt with immediately. Alternatively, payment can be made directly to the Pre-School bank account. Please ask for account details if needed.



**Transition to School**

Our school leavers missed out on many traditional Pre-School events such as our Leavers concert, graduation photographs and visits to new schools. Deb and Suzanne have managed to contact some of the schools to chat to new teachers who are really looking forward to meeting the boys and girls. We will be passing on Learning Journeys to you as they hold such fantastic memories of your child’s time at Pre-School.

**Good Luck to all our children leaving for big school. It has been lovely to have your company and we will miss you all.**

**Dates for your Diary**

* **Children return to Pre-School on Thursday 3rd September**
* **AGM – Thursday 22nd October**

**Term dates** for the next school year (September 2020 to July 2021) will be issued shortly and will soon also be available to view on our website.

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The staff team at St. James’ would like to wish everyone a happy holiday and thank you for your support throughout the year.

Thank you for reading this newsletter!

**St James’ Pre-School Woolton Ltd.**

*A non profit organisation*

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