**St James’ Pre-School Newsletter**

**December 2020**

**FUNDRAISING NEWS**

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising so far, as a not for profit charity we rely heavily on fundraising. Due to current restrictions we’ve been unable to hold many of our fundraising events so we really do appreciate all of your support.

We had our first collection from Roberts Recycle on Friday 6th November, clothing, shoes and accessories were donated giving us a payment of £76.40. We will be having additional collections in the new year; all donations are welcome.

The Chocolate Advent calendar brought in a massive £71 and was won by Sinead who regularly attends our Parent and Toddler Group with her beautiful little girl Blossom, well done. We still have tickets on sale for the Luxury Food Hamper, a lovely selection of Christmas treats. Tickets are on sale daily for £1 per strip, this will be drawn the week of 14th December.

**Staffing News**

Amanda Hill will be leaving us to enjoy more time with her family and also to concentrate on her studies. Amanda has been a valuable member of the Team at St James’ and said it has been a very hard decision to take. She has enjoyed looking after the parents and children who regularly attend our Parent and Toddler sessions. On behalf of the Governing Body, staff, parents and children past and present, we would like to say a huge thank you.  Amanda will finish on Friday 11th December and we would like to take this opportunity to wish her health and happiness in the future as she looks forward to spending more time with her family.  Parent and Toddler will continue to be staffed by Abigail Gibney.

**NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS**

As you will be aware, our Christmas celebrations will be a little different this year as we will not be able to hold our Nativity and Christmas Fair. We are trying to keep things as normal and exciting for our children as possible and we are still planning to dress the children up and have a ‘closed doors singalong’ which we can hopefully record to show parents and families via our closed Facebook page. You won’t need to provide costumes for your child - numbers of children attending are lower than in previous years and we have plenty to provide for all.

We’re planning our ‘singalong’ for Wednesday 16th December during the usual morning session. All children are welcome to attend. If your child does not normally attend on this day and you would like them to be involved, please speak to Deb or Suzanne.

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**Christmas Jumper Week** this year will be **Monday 7th December – Friday 11th December**. For a donation of £1, the children are welcome to wear their best festive jumper all week. One £1 donation covers children for the whole of Christmas jumper week.

Our **Christmas party** will be held on **Friday 18th December**. All Pre-school children are welcome to attend and should arrive at Pre-School at the usual time of 9.15 a.m. **Children can be collected after the party at 11.30 a.m.** Normal fees apply and we would be grateful if you could let us know if your child will be attending and pay fees in advance.

**Message from the Chair of Trustees**

I would like to thank you all for your cooperation understanding and support for St James’ Pre-School and especially the wonderful caring and dedicated staff. Times have been very difficult for us all, both for families and our organisation.

Your children are a credit to you and we enjoy so much the relationship between ourselves and the children, who are such a joy.

The Pre-School is such a happy place where the children have been able to continue with their learning journey whilst being able to have the very important social interaction and friendship that makes St James’ such a very special place.

The Parent and Toddler sessions have been a huge success and we are proud and privileged to have been able to safely offer this very important and valuable resource in times of so much uncertainty. Times are certainly very tough and uncertain but as we come to the end of the year and quickly approach Christmas, we have so much to look forward to. Enjoy your family time together. We will be looking forward to welcoming the children back in what hopefully will be a happy and healthy New Year for us all.

 Best wishes to all our families for a peaceful and happy Christmas and healthy new year.

Steve Skyner

**Pre-school will finish for the Christmas break on Friday 18th December and children will return on Tuesday 5th January 2021.**

We would like to thank you for all of your support in what has been the most difficult, worrying and challenging year we have faced so far. We wish you all Health, Wealth & Happiness for 2021.

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**Dates for your diary**

* Christmas Jumper week - Monday 7th – Friday 11th December
* Christmas singalong - Wednesday 16th December
* Pre-school closes for Christmas break - Friday 18th December (Party day)
* Pre-school returns - Tuesday 5th January 2021

The Team at St James’ would like to thank you for reading this newsletter.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

St James’ Pre-School

*A non-profit organisation*

*Charity number 1160127*

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