**St James’ Pre-School Newsletter**

**![C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\0YQHJUQ7\Weather-sun-thorm-shower.svg[1].png]()October 2020**

We would like to welcome all of our children and their families to St James’ Pre-School at the start of a new pre-school year. The new children are settling in well and beginning to learn our routines and children returning after our extended break have been friendly and welcoming.

During our time off we said goodbye to three members of staff - Leah who has gone off to University to pursue a career in Nursing and Gill and Sue who after being off on sick leave have both decided it was time to retire. We wish them all health and happiness.

**The New Normal**

Thank you to everyone for adhering to the ever changing government rules regarding COVID 19 procedures. The children have been fantastic following the new rules. We have always promoted hygiene and handwashing but children are being encouraged more to use hand sanitiser too. Toys and equipment are being steam cleaned daily, washed, sprayed with antibacterial spray or rotated. We are fortunate enough to have plenty of resources making it easier to quarantine toys when needed.

**Please follow guidelines for reporting illness. If your child is unwell please keep him/her at home and call preschool to advise us. We have been issued with new paperwork to record details of illness which we must complete and hold securely.**

**Morning Registration**

May we ask for your help at this busy time of the morning. At present we have been asked to ensure that social distancing is taking place outside Pre-School. **Also following advice from the Director of Public Health for Liverpool, it is essential that Parents/Carers wear a mask at drop off and collection time.** We have stationed a portable handwashing unit at the entrance door to ensure handwashing is happening on arrival. Temperatures of children are also checked with a scan thermometer.

Please ensure your child’s name is given in to be marked on the register, then follow the one way system as a second register is completed and a member of staff is positioned on the exit door. The system is in place to ensure Health & safety and also social distancing as it stops congestion at the entrance. It is also your opportunity to give information to staff, perhaps concerning changes in collection arrangements for your child that day.

When paying fees, please place money in an envelope, with your child’s name and what the payment is for written on the envelope. Envelopes are available on the front desk, so please feel free to take one. If possible, please try to provide the correct money as change is not always available.

**Collection at the end of session**

Please be patient when collecting children at the end of the session as we are still getting used to new faces. Children are asked to wait until their name is called by a member of staff. If a person unknown to us is collecting your child, please make sure they know the **password** provided by you on your child’s registration form.

**Parking Concerns**

**Please be mindful about parking safely at drop off and pick up times.**

Parking is not permitted over the dropped kerb because this makes it difficult for pedestrians to cross the road, especially the visually impaired, those in wheelchairs or with prams. Parking over the corner of Church Road South and High Street is also dangerous and impedes the flow of traffic. We have noticed an increased presence of traffic wardens who have advised us that tickets will be issued if appropriate.

Thank you for your co-operation. Safety is always our first concern.

 **FUNDRAISING NEWS AND EVENTS**

As a not for profit Registered Charity we rely heavily on fundraising. Due to restrictions, unfortunately we have been unable to organise and carry out many of our usual fundraisng events but we hope to reinstate some of these events in the near future.

We have however managed to arrange a clothes collection with Roberts Recycle on Friday 6th November. At the moment, Roberts Recycle are not able to supply bags but donations can be put in any bag and brought along to Pre-School, so why not use half term for a pre-christmas sort out of your unwanted clothes, shoes and handbags ready to donate to us on the 6th November. We’ll send out a reminder nearer the time.

We are hoping to organise some raffles on the run up to Christmas as again it looks like we are going to miss out on some big fundraising events. We would welcome your support.

Thank you to the children and their families who have already supported our Sponsored Colour. We have been able to display some beautiful healthy food pictures and have so far raised a fantastic £337. There’s still room on our display board for any last minute masterpieces!!

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The children love the new equipment which was delivered over the Summer. The new role play kitchen is a big hit and means that Home Role Play is now available in both rooms everyday. The mini trampoline is shared between the rooms and is sturdy, strong and great fun. We hope to take delivery of our new perspex paint easel very soon. We also received a new portable handwashing unit which means as well as having one in both Pre-School rooms, we can now have one in Parent and Toddler for our younger visitors.

 The children enjoyed Healthy Eating Week at Preschool. We do constantly promote healthy choices and it was nice to focus our full weeks activities on being Healthy, Active and Mind kind.

The older children have also had fun learning about Autumn. Thanks to everyone who has been outdoors looking for interesting bits to put in their ‘Autumn Treasure’ bags. We’ve all really enjoyed sharing, exploring, investigating and creating a fabulous Autumn display with some of the things collected.

 Lots of photographs have been uploaded to our Facebook page. If you haven’t already joined, click on the link below and a member of staff will authorise your request. Please do not share photographs posted on this group as it is a closed group and other parents may not want images shared. You can use this page to share things your little one has beeen doing at home.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/378524612735939/?ref=share>

 **Uniform**

The children all look very smart in their pre-school uniforms. Please make sure that all items of clothing and pump bags are clearly labelled with your child’s name so that we can ensure that they are returned at the end of the morning.

**Annual General Meeting**

Our Annual General Meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday 22nd October, however, due to increased restrictions, we will need to rearrange. St James’ Pre-School is a non-profit organisation with charitable status and in order for us to comply with the requirements of the Charities Commission, our Governing Body must have representation from a minimum of four Parent Governors. If you would like to find out more about joining our Governing Body, please see Deb for more information. This is a great way to become more involved with pre-school life. We are also looking for help with fundraising, so if you would like to volunteer to help out at our fundraising events, or if you have any ideas for raising money, we would love to hear from you.

As a registered charity, in the past we have been fortunate to have our fundraising efforts matched by some of our local banks and companies. If this is something you and your employer can help with, please do let Deb or Suzanne know.

![C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\6V97BXP1\MC900239415[1].wmf]()**Dates for your Diary**

Pre-school closes for Half Term **Friday 23rd October 2020**

Staff Training Day **Monday 2nd November 2020**

Return to Pre-school **Tuesday 3rd November 2020**

Roberts Recycle Clothes Collection **Friday 6th November 2020**

AGM **To be confirmed**

The team at St James would like to thank you for reading this newsletter!

St James’ Pre-School Woolton Ltd *A non-profit organisation*

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 St James Staff & Parents closed Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/378524612735939/?ref=share>