St James’ Pre-School Newsletter

Welcome to our September 2023 edition of the Newsletter



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 the routines and children returning after the summer break have been friendly and welcoming.

**Morning Registration**

May we ask for your help at this busy time of the morning. When arriving at pre-school please ensure your name is given in to be marked on the register. After hanging up coats and bags, drop your child at his/her room and follow the one-way system through the Parent & Toddler door. Staff members may have information for you at the back door such as tickets for up-and-coming events. It is also your opportunity to give information to staff, perhaps concerning changes in collection arrangements for your child that day. If there is anything you forget to tell us, you are welcome to call. The number for Pre-school is 0151 428 7525.

**Collection at the end of the morning.**

Please be patient when collecting your child at the end of the session as we are still getting used to new faces. Children are encouraged to wait until their name **is called by a member of staff** to ensure they are going home with the right person. If a person unfamiliar to us is collecting your child please ensure they know the **Password** provided by you on registration forms. If you could inform a member of staff in the morning of a change/new person collecting it would be appreciated.

**Payments**

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.

Daily fees - £18 - For children who are not yet eligible for Early Years funding

Daily snack fees – 50p per day - for all children

Term fee- £25 per term for all children payable at the beginning of each main term (September, January and April)

**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. Please be mindful when parking to keep everybody safe.

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

**FAMLY APP**

We hope you have all had an opportunity to use the Famly app and find it useful.

The app is designed to make Home-School communication more effective and gives you a chance to keep up to date with your child’s progress, interests, and development at Pre-School.

There is also the opportunity for parents/carers to add photographs and news from home, which helps staff to prompt children into sharing their news with us. Don’t forget to tag your child in any photographs on the news feed, in order to save them to their personal learning journey. The learning journey can be saved/printed for memories to treasure when your child leaves St James’.

Thank you to the parents engaging in our app. If you need the link to be resent, please ask Deb who will happily oblige. Check out the newsfeed to see photos of what the children have been up to.

**Woolton Educational Grant.**

This year our application to Woolton Educational grant was successful. We purchased a new rocker/steps for physical play, drain pipe construction set for water play, and large magnetic/whiteboard for mark making/creating pictures and number/letter recognition. The children are already enjoying these resources.

**Uniform**

The children all look very smart in their pre-school uniforms. Apologies to those waiting for uniform, there has been a delay from the supplier but uniform will be available this week. Please ensure 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.

**Can children bringing bags to Pre-school please use a pump bag rather than a backpack please? We are limited to space and need to keep the hallway as clear as possible. We find pump bags easier to hang out of the way on coat pegs - thank you.** Whenever possible could you please ensure your child has a change of clothes in their pump bag including spare underwear and socks. We have a very limited stock of spare clothes.

**Autumn Fundraising Disco**

St James’ Pre-School is a non-profit organisation, we rely heavily on fundraising events which are held throughout the year. We will be holding our Spooky Autumn Fundraising Disco on Friday 27th October from 12.15 to 1.30 p.m. Refreshments and lunch will be available to purchase. It is a great social event for the children, parents and staff. Tickets costing £2.00 will be on sale shortly. Children are welcome to wear own clothes or Spooky Fancy Dress.

We will be selling cakes on the day and would be grateful for any donations! These can be brought into Pre-School on the morning of the disco. If you are available to help at the Disco or to sell raffle tickets in the queue at the end of the morning, please let Deb or Suzanne know. We would be very grateful for any help. Thank you in advance.

**WellComm**

At St James’ Pre-school we use the WellComm Speech and Language programme to monitor and improve children’s communication. Simple fun screenings are carried out during our morning session. Each screening consists of 10 questions, 5 about what the child understands and 5 about what language they use. The screenings are scored Green, Amber or Red. Children who score amber/red in their age-related section can be helped with tasks that are followed at pre-school and shared on Famly with parents.

Suzanne attended the training course for WellComm and has passed the training on to other staff members. If you require further information regarding WellComm please speak to your child’s keyperson or Suzanne. Screening has not yet started for this term as Key-persons are still getting to know their groups and children individually.

**Annual General Meeting**

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting in Pre-School on Thursday 19th October at 7.45pm. St James Pre-school is a non-profit organisation with a charitable status. 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. Pre-School needs these Parent Governors in order to continue running. If you would like to find out more about joining our Governing Body please do come along or ask Deb/Suzanne 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. If you need any more information speak to Deb or Suzanne.

We really do need your support in order to comply with the guidelines set out in our Constitution, without the support of the parents/carers as Trustees, Pre-School cannot continue.

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.

**Dates for your Diary**

⦁ Annual General Meeting Thursday 19th October at 7.45 p.m.

⦁ Spooky Autumn Fundraising Disco: Friday 27th October from 12.15 to 1.30 p.m.

⦁ Pre-School closes for HALF TERM on Friday 27th October and the children return on Tuesday 7th November.

⦁ Nativity and Christmas Fayre: Date to be confirmed.

⦁ CHRISTMAS PARTY AND END OF TERM: Friday 22nd December.

⦁ Children return to Pre-School on Monday 8th January

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

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

Charity Number 1160217

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