

# SUTTON ON THE HILL

## Preschool

### Newsletter AUTUMN 2020

#### Dear Pre-School Families

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome back our returning children from last year and to offer a warm reception to those who have recently joined us in this new school year. We've had some changes to the 'normal' pre-school routine lately which have been a really positive response to our Covid provision. We have taken the opportunity to establish an amazing outdoor space where the children have enjoyed our 'outdoor' version of pre-school. We are hoping to remain outdoors as much as possible in the coming months and will make the most of our rural location by going for walks around the village, exploring our direct community. We will be seeking everyone's permissions to allow us to carry out these off-site excursions soon. Please keep an eye out for the relevant emails.

#### Calendar

Unfortunately, this year our events calendar will be different, at least until we can meet up in larger groups. However, we aim to continue exploring a cultural capital theme by making the most of the beautiful scenery that lies all round our pre-school. On our doorstep we have country walks, fields to ramble over and a babbling brook to explore!!! We aim to have a weekly outing to ensure all the children get a chance to investigate the local community.

A timetable of events and relevant consent forms will be available soon.

Parent consultations will be coming up soon (Mon 19th-Thurs 22nd October). These may be carried out electronically or face-to-face (socially distanced) depending on the government guidance at the time.

#### Outdoor Learning

In the current pandemic climate our aim is to provide an outdoor learning provision and where possible we will remain outside as much as possible. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide spare clothing at present but would greatly appreciate if all the children could bring a full set of spare clothes (more if your child loves messy/water play) including extra socks and jumpers. We will be getting wet and muddy! Also, as the weather turns colder please ensure your child is warmly dressed, plenty of layers and a good warm waterproof coat, hat, gloves and wellie boots (tights and socks are a good way of keeping little feet warm and adding an extra bottom layer!). An addition to a warm coat, a set of waterproof clothing (separates or all in one - lined) would be extremely beneficial too. We really do appreciate all the effort the parents are going to, sending the children in with all this additional clothing - please rest assured we are providing the children with exciting and fun filled activities as the colder, wetter weather creeps in.

**Outdoor Classroom Day**  
**Thursday 5th November**  
Celebrating Outdoor Learning  
at Pre-School

**Key Person Chat Week**  
**W/C 19th October**  
Your child's Key Person will contact you to arrange a virtual, or Socially Distanced, chat.

**Fireworks Event/Raffle**  
**Saturday 7th November**  
Watch out for more information about how to buy tickets or to get involved in this year's unique, COVID-safe event.

**Amazon Smile**  
Thinking about Christmas shopping already? If you go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and sign up to support Pre-School, Amazon will donate to us every time you buy an eligible item at no cost to you!

**Go Fund Me COVID Appeal**  
Thank you for helping us to raise  
£227.53!

*Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information and photos.*

## A Fond Farewell

Some sad news this term. Mandy, our Deputy Manager, will be leaving preschool in November. She has been an integral part for preschool for many years and I would like to thank her for all her hard work and commitment to our preschool community both past and present. We wish her all the best with whatever new adventure she embarks on after a well deserved rest! We would like to thank her for all the support and dedication over the years and I know the children, parents and staff will miss her greatly.  
Veronica, Pre-School Manager.

## From the Committee

As you all know, we are a Voluntary Committee-run pre-school which relies on the goodwill and hard work of people who have a connection with Sutton-on-the-Hill and value its role in our rural Community. We are required to have 60% of the Committee as current parents and on Monday 21st September we held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to elect a new Committee after most of the children of last year's team moved on up to school. I am delighted to announce that our new Committee is as follows:

Chair: Johann Crisp (Teddy's mum)

Vice-Chair: Kate Scheel (Amelie's mum)

Treasurer: Catherine Bridge (an external candidate - Catherine is a retired School Budget planner who lives in Hatton and wants to use her skills and experience to contribute to the local Community)

Secretary: Rosanna Montgomery (Seren moved up to school this term)

Parent Member: Vicky Finch (Edward's mum)

Parent Member: Amy Watt (Eaphie's mum)

The former Committee will continue to help out in the transition period until the relevant checks are complete. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please contact us at [suttononthehillsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:suttononthehillsecretary@gmail.com).

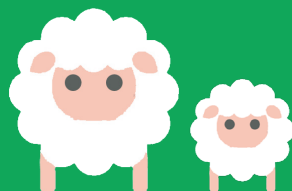
## Fireworks Night

We will not be able to hold our usual Fireworks Event at pre-school due to COVID restrictions. However, as this is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and always highly anticipated by children, we are exploring ways to do this safely for everyone. Our current plan is to continue to hold the traditional raffle (please do get in touch if you, or anyone you know, have any prizes to donate) and to apply for Matched Funding to help to boost any funds raised - if you work for a company which is signed up to this scheme, please do let us know as last year it doubled our profits from £1000 to £2000!! We are considering running a virtual event for families but we would love your feedback on this idea, or suggestions for others. Please do get in touch at [suttononthehillsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:suttononthehillsecretary@gmail.com) if you would like to make any comments or volunteer to help in any way.

## Opening Hours and Fees

As you are aware, we are open from 9.00am to 3.00 pm, Monday to Thursday, with staggered drop off/pick up as advised. All children can attend these sessions. If your child only comes in the morning (9.00am-12.00pm), you have the option to stay an extra hour in our lunch club (12.00-1.00pm) at the cost of £4.25. In light of extra expenses related to COVID, and in line with increased Government payments for funded children, we are increasing our fees to £14 for 3 and 4 year olds and £14.50 for 2 year olds (who need a higher staff:child ratio) for a 3 hour session. We often have lower numbers in the afternoons and struggle to keep these financially viable so we encourage parents to consider using them, if appropriate for your child, and to keep spreading the word to friends and neighbours about our wonderful little pre-school!

Many Thanks  
Pre-School Staff & Committee



07969 368599