



Kentisbeare Pre-School Newsletter

January 2010

Pre-school tel : 07780 873057

www.kentisbearepreschool.org.uk

Welcome to this month's newsletter. Although it seems as if we have only been back a short time we have lots of news and things going on.

We are all finally back at pre-school and I think, most of us, parents and children, are very glad to be back.

The snowy weather caused its problems in the first week when we couldn't open because most people were

snowed in and then again in the second week when we were without water.

We managed to stay open on our first day of the pipes being frozen, thanks to Jack's mum Katherine arriving with tanks of water so we could flush the toilets. But when our only working tap gave up the ghost we decided, after taking advice from Devon County, that, in the interest of 'health and safety' we would have to close.

Katherine was also on hand to save the outdoor shade sail which was so full of snow its metal pole was warping and it was nearly touching the ground. With the help of Joe M's dad and Molly G's granddad we managed to take the sail down, but only after Katherine had climbed in to clear out the snow. She is pictured in action above.

Fortunately the snow started to thaw and we are now well and truly open. Thanks to all the parents and staff who rallied around to help.

Our **themes for this term** are, appropriately, winter weather, colours, Chinese New Year and Pancake Day. If you would like to contribute any ideas around these themes or if there is a particular activity your child is interested in then please speak to a member of staff or write it up on the planning sheet.

A big welcome to the **new children**, Alice, Cadie, Darcy, Ellie, George C, and Isla who start this term. We hope they feel welcome and enjoy their time with us.





We had a lovely time at the **leaver's lunch** at the end of last term, when the children who were going up to primary school were presented with book bags by their new school teacher Mrs Ainsworth and head teacher Mrs Hailey. The group is pictured above.

We are really pleased to be able to give re-school **book bags** to all our pre-school children. We are inviting people to make a donation towards the cost of the bags. Please give any amount you feel appropriate, if people would like an idea of how much to give, we suggest around £1.50. They will be handed out in the next couple of weeks.

You will find a **family questionnaire** in your child's tray this week. Please take the time to fill it out. Your opinions really count and are important in helping us plan for the future of the pre-school. The next pre-school **committee meeting** will take place on Wednesday, January 27 at 7.30pm. A copy of the agenda will be placed on website. We are working hard to keep the **website** regularly updated. It was very useful in keeping people informed over closures earlier this month and we hope to continue disseminating information this way.

As many people know 'Granny' Clare left at the end of last term. She came in once a week to read to the children and generally get involved with whatever activity they were taking part in. It would be lovely to have another **granny, or granddad** come in on a regular basis. The children really loved her visits and were very fond of her. If anybody has any suggestions please speak to a member of staff or the committee.

Just a reminder that pre-school **sweatshirts**, priced £7.50, and t-shirts, £6, are available. Not only do the children look gorgeous in their 'uniform' but they also help to raise money for the pre-school. They are available in red or purple. Just ask a member of staff how to order one.

We have booked the **pre-school meal** for Thursday, February 4 at 7.30pm at the Wyndham Arms in Kentisbeare. This meal is for everyone, parents, staff and committee members. Please come along, it should be a fun night. There will be a list up at pre-school to sign up, or send an email to Bee at beemcg@btinternet.com

There is an opportunity for people to comment on Devon County Council's proposals regarding **school admissions and transport for 2011/12**. Parents and community groups are invited to review and comment on the proposed admission arrangements. This is a valuable exercise and our views may contribute to decisions on how Devon and Devon schools will manage access for children. The consultation takes place until March 1 at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements

This term's **parents' evening** is on March 3. There will be two timeslots, 2pm-3pm and 7.30pm-8.30pm. There will be a form up at pre-school to book a slot and we will also put a reminder in the children's trays. This is a chance for you to come and meet your child's key worker and discuss how they are getting on at pre-school.

We had a brilliant turn out for the **Christmas party and Nativity**. Thanks to everyone who came along and helped make it such a fun day. It was certainly a challenge cooking chicken nuggets and chips for 40 children in our small oven. But judging by the amount of empty plates and happy faces we managed it. Thanks to the members of the committee and staff who worked so hard to make sure it was a success. A special thank you to Vicki who stepped in to keep things running smoothly as Helen was feeling unwell. Not only did she keep the children and parents in order, she also made an excellent 'Santa's little helper'. Also many thanks to the parents who helped in various ways during the day. Here are a few pictures we would like to share with you. The main picture is courtesy of the Culm Valley Gazette and was included in their Nativity supplement on December 15.



**Katherine,
Sue and
Annette
get to
grips with
the
mountain
of chicken
dippers
and chips**



Little angels Flora and Freya, pictured above, and George gets ready to pull a cracker, right

Finally, the children have been really enjoying playing with the dressing up clothes. Here are pictures we would like to share with you.



Chloe and Freddie play with the train tracks, above left, and above right, Joanna in one of the princess outfits. Joe B, below left, and Seb, below right, try the Tellytubby costumes on for size


