 6th January 2025

**Great Witley Pre-School Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back and a happy new year to you all from Pre-School. We hope you had a great Christmas and look forward to hearing all about it from yourselves and also your children. Thank you so much for the gifts for the staff and the kind words in the Christmas cards – these are all very much appreciated by the staff. Due to the new funding our numbers are almost full for this academic year so if you are thinking about extending your child’s hours do come and have a word with me and I will try to accommodate your wishes. We have some new children joining us this term and would like to welcome them and their family to our little Pre School ‘family’.

**Christmas Concert and Party** – Can I just say a big thank you to everybody involved in both events – I thought they went really well and I hope that you all enjoyed our new format Christmas celebration. It was lovely that we were able to all get together to celebrate this special time. The Christmas Party was well attended by most of the children and I think a good time was had by all, including the staff. Father Christmas found time in his busy schedule to come for a visit to see the children, which is always amazing.

**Committee Members** – you will recall that we held our AGM in November and managed to recruit 2 new additional committee members but these replaced some that stepped down at the same time. Having spoken to EYA we can co-opt up to 3 more committee members at a committee meeting. If you are interested in being part of the organisation of Pre School do please come and have a word with me, thanks

**Weather Closure** – Just to remind you where the weather makes travel dangerous it may be necessary for the Pre-School to close. When this happens I will endeavour to get a message on to the local radio stations, especially BBC Hereford & Worcester and will follow it up with an email out to parents and Facebook. However if you hear that Great Witley Primary School is closed then the chances are that we will be too.

**Suitable Clothing** – We do try to get the children outside each day where possible to meet the requirements of the EYFS. Please can you make sure that your child comes to Pre-School with suitable and **named** outdoor clothing so that we can do this. We are trying to take the children on a weekly nature walk to Bowens Field so they are able to explore how the outdoor environment changes throughout the seasons. Can I also ask that you ensure your child is layered up in clothing which can easily be removed or added to during the day. The hall is a big space to heat up so there will inevitably be occasions when it becomes a little chilly indoors at this time of the year.

**Unwell children** – Can I remind you that your child should only attend Pre-School if he or she is well enough to do so. When children are poorly they really do not want to be here and would much rather be at home, having a cuddle with you. It is also unfair to the other children and staff so to prevent the spread of infection to others can I ask you to keep them at home if they are not well in line with our Policies and Procedures. If your child has had a sickness bug can I ask that you remember NOT to send your child back in until he/she has been symptom free for 48 hours. Where a child has a raised temperature then they must not return to Pre School unless a normal temperature has been evident for at least 24 hours without the use of Calpol. If you have given your child Calpol please inform the staff on arrival. A decision will then be made as to whether we can admit your child on that day. Please do assist me in helping to minimise the spread of infection. Thank you. Should staff be unable to attend work if they are poorly themselves can l just remind you that I may need to limit places on that day in line with our Risk Assessment guidance to maintain adequate staff ratios. Obviously I hope this won’t be necessary.

**Planning** – Our topic for this half term is ‘All creatures great and small’. However we do take the lead for the daily plans from your children. Again we need your help to let us know what your child has been interested or involved in at home. Please share this either with myself or your child’s key person. Please remember that we have included a section for you to do this with your child's learning journey or you can complete the booklet attached to this newsletter. Can I ask that all Learning Journeys are returned to Pre School as soon as you can so that staff can continue to keep them updated with your child's progress. Thank you.

**Invoices** – I will shortly be issuing the invoices for this term. If you can ensure that payment is made promptly it would really be appreciated. I know that a lot of the places are now funded but if you are able to pay the voluntary snack charge it would help us enormously. Thank you. The funding presently offered by the Government does not actually cover the cost of providing outstanding early years education.

**Packed Lunches** - we have been noticing that some of the children's lunch boxes have recently been containing treats which are not classified as healthy eg chocolates or sweets. As a setting we promote healthy eating and if you do require any assistance on this aspect please come and have a word with either me or the staff. Can I also remind you that we need to be mindful of allergies so please can you make sure that nut and kiwi products are not included in with your child’s lunch, thank you.

**School Registration** – Please remember that the closing date for the online school admissions for children starting school in the September 2025 intake is 15th January 2025. If you have not already submitted your application please make sure that you do so before the deadline this month via the Worcestershire County Council website. If you need any assistance with this do please come and have a word with me.

**Early Years Alliance training for families** – I am attaching a poster received from EYA regarding some free training for parents/families which you might be interested in. I should imagine that these may well get booked up fairly quickly so I wouldn’t leave it too long to book if you want to do it.

**Easter Fayre** – Pre School will be breaking up for Easter on Friday 11th April and we will be holding our Easter Fayre on that morning. Further details will follow in due course but you might just want to make a note to keep this morning free.

**Easyfundraising.org.uk** – please don’t forget to register with this organisation and support the Pre School for any online purchases. We have raised over £900 since I set this up so it is a fantastic way to secure additional funds for the Pre School. It does not cost you anything extra – you just log into this site first before you visit your normal online retailer. Thank you if you are already accessing this additional fundraising site.

**Vegetables** – If you are struggling to get your child to eat vegetables please visit [www.foodafactoflife.org.uk](http://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk) and check out the parental engagement section for some helpful tips

I hope this all makes sense but as ever if you have any queries on any aspect of Pre-School life then please do not hesitate to have a word with me. Thanking you in anticipation of your continued support.

Kind regards, Mandy and Staff

**Dates for your Diary**

Monday 6th January – Pre School resumes

Friday 14th February – break up for half term

Monday 24th February – Pre School resumes

Friday 11th April – Easter fayre (morning) and Pre School breaks up for Easter