



# Buckden Pre-School Playgroup

A place for Children to grow, to learn and to flourish

Registered Charity No. 291840

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**Reflecting on Quality**  
*committed to improvement*

## Newsletter –October 2014

### Preschool roundup

Welcome to the October newsletter. We have had a busy month at the preschool but the children have settled really well back in to the routine. We have been out and about taking advantage of the unseasonably warm weather and learnt all about the festivals of Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Divali and Halloween. The children have enjoyed taking part in lots of activities including colour mixing, role play and sticky kids.

#### A few reminders:

- Please ensure you are on time for dropping off and picking up your children. Late arrivals in the morning can be disruptive and mean that children miss out on registration and late pickups can cause distress as well as problems with the adult/child ratios.
- If your child is not going to be attending a session for any reason we would really appreciate a text or phone call to let us know.
- **Can you please ensure your fees are paid on time**, we are reliant on the fees to pay our overheads and so when fees are late we are then late paying.
- Can you please name all clothing, hats, lunch boxes, bottles etc so we can clearly identify who they belong to
- Many thanks for your cooperation with these.



### Happy birthday!

A very happy birthday to Faye, Darcy and Isabella who turned 3 this month and to Ethan who turned 4, we hope you all had lovely birthdays.



## It's in the bag!!

Can you check your child's bag after each session, we put all their art work in them as well as any letters and invoices. Many thanks



## Spooky goings on!!

Come and join the fun at our Halloween party on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> from 3-4.50pm. Tickets bought in advance are £2.00, on the door £2.50 including a hot dog, under 2's are free.



## Say Cheese!

The very lovely Kath Samson (Evolution Photos) will be visiting the preschool on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Kath takes natural shots of the children as they go about their normal daily activities capturing their true selves. If your child doesn't usually attend on a Thursday you should

have received a form to complete and return inviting them in from 9.30-10.30. If you haven't had one please do let staff know. If you have had one can you return it ASAP so we can arrange staffing? These photos make beautiful gifts and just in time for Christmas 😊

<http://www.evolutionphotos.co.uk/> check out Kath's website, I have used her at previous settings and privately as well and the results have been fantastic.



## We would like.....

We would like to add to our technology toys to further support the children's learning and development. Do you have any old mobiles, torches, cameras, calculators? If so we can give them a very good

home....thank you 😊

## Term dates

**Professional Day:** Friday 24th October

**Half Term:** 27th - 31st October

**Autumn Term Closes:** Friday 19th December

**2015**

**Spring Term Opens:** Tuesday 6th January

Half Term: 16th - 20th February  
Spring Term Closes: Friday 27th March  
Summer Term Opens: Monday 13th April  
May Day: Monday 4th May  
Half Term: 25th – 29th May  
Summer Term Closes: Friday 17th July  
Professional Day: Monday 20th July  
Professional Day: Tuesday 21st July  
Professional Day: Wednesday 22nd July

## Some dates from Buckden Primary for our 2015 school leavers

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November:** 10.00 am – 11.00 am – EYFS open morning for September 2015 intake.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November:** 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm – EYFS open afternoon for September 2015 intake

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November:** 10.30 am – 12.00 pm – EYFS open Morning for September 2015 intake.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November:** Application process opens for primary school admissions for September 2015.

## Committee Roundup

### Future Fundraising Events:

Halloween Disco Friday:	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October ~ 3-4.50pm
Buckden Christmas Lights:	Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Christmas Fayre:	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December

Please can you let staff know if you are able to help on the day, even for an hour, donate any goods and/ or cakes will be greatly appreciated!!

## **Buckden Pre-School AGM: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**

We will be saying a very big thank you and goodbye to our existing committee members and welcoming in our new members. The Playgroup is charity and it is managed by a committee, if there is no committee then there will be no Playgroup.

Anyone can join the committee, as a parent, grandparent, or a member of the community. The committee has responsibility for myriad of tasks from developing a

business plan, managing the daily accounts and working with staff to ensure the setting follows health and safety, risk assessment, insurance and first aid guidance and procedures.

There are also a lot fun jobs like building new partnerships with other parents and professionals, coming up with new fundraising ideas, getting exciting plans off the ground.

Please come along to the AGM to learn more about how your Playgroup is managed and to give us your ideas and suggestions. You do not have to join the committee but if you are interested in helping out with certain tasks e.g. fundraising etc., please let us know.

We would be grateful if you would inform a member of staff to let us know if you will / will not be attending the AGM.

### **Chairperson**

It is nearly November and time for the pre-school's annual AGM. Please, please come and support the pre-school at this very important meeting; we will be giving the yearly accounts and reports from Michelle, the treasurers and from the fundraisers. To have parents/ carers turn up to give support to the committee and staff members would be greatly appreciated and would show them that all of their hard work is acknowledged.

We have been very fortunate to have had a treasurer and chairperson step forward and help with fundraising but we desperately need more fundraisers. We rely on yearly fundraising to pay the bills and rent, without which the pre-school would have to close.

We also need a staff liaison person who could be responsible for keeping the HR files up-to-date, making sure that the Pre-School is adhering to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements and ensuring the pre-school policies are kept up-dated. I will be finishing the policies over the next few weeks, a new HR systems has been created over the last year and is currently up-to-date. There have been a few amendments to the EYFS which needs to be checked. This may be a couple of hours a month as and when needed etc.

Stepping down from this role, and from being fundraiser for the years previously I am very proud of all of the hard work that the committee has undertaken in a voluntary role. This time last year the pre-school was in severe financial difficulties and the staff structure was not fulfilling its role or duty. Now, I am very happy to say that after a year of strict spending and evaluation of staff and item costs, we are back on track ~ we still need to be careful but the pre-school is financially viable.

We have welcomed Michelle as a manager to the setting, Denise has come on board and Alison has also become a permanent staff member. Along with Sam, Estelle and Sammy, the staff structure is now a positive and vibrant mix of early years professional members and each bring to the setting various strengths and background experiences. The pre-school is well organised, the children are happy and stimulated and the early years paperwork and assessments are up-to-date and in working order.

A massive thank you to staff and committee members for a year of immense hard work and dedication!!!! Also thank you to parents/ carers for your ongoing support with fundraising activities, pre-school day-to-day activities and for helping in pre-school sessions. And finally a massive thank you to new committee members for offering their help and good luck over the next year!!

Corrine Emeleus