Sharnbrook Pre-school

Tel: 01234 781328

**Penguins Newsletter November – 2024**

Dear Parents/Carers

Our final half term of the year has arrived, and it looks like it will be a busy one ending with some fun Christmas activities for the children to enjoy! Please do keep us informed of any changes to your contact details in case we need to phone you in an emergency.

Our theme for this half term will be:

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**“Awesome Autumn”**

Accompanying this newsletter is a Family Fun page of activities to do with your children to develop their understanding of Autumn and to have some fun together.

**Wintery Weather**

Please could we remind you to ensure your child is dressed in a warm, waterproof coat suitable for this time of year. The children all have access to our outdoor area – whatever the weather. We will take the children outside to play in the rain/wind/frost so they can experience the changing seasons first hand. Wellies are very useful when using the garden, school field, Woodland Area and for splashing in puddles. Little hands do get cold quickly – so hats and gloves are important too as the mornings become chilly. All children should have a spare set of clothes in a small named bag on their peg and please do return any borrowed items quickly. We are encouraging the children to be as independent as possible. To help with this please ask your child to put on their own shoes and coats, this saves us lots of time and we can get on with the important bits like going outside to play.

**Interactive Learning Diary**

We have been impressed by how many parents are regular users of the Interactive Learning Diary. The children enjoy looking at their own Learning Journey and it can spark some very interesting conversations as they remember what was happening in the photographs. If you have any questions or problems using the Interactive Learning Diary; please speak to Michelle Hunter and she will do her best to quickly solve any difficulties, you may be experiencing. There is also an app which you can download onto your phone making the whole process even easier, again ask Michelle for more information.

**Sickness**

Please find attached with the Newsletter some guidance about what to do if your child is feeling under the weather and you are wondering if they should attend Preschool. There are lots of nasty bugs at this time of year which can be spread easily to others and a day on the sofa may be the best place for your child – nobody wants to play if they are feeling unwell and we all know a little TLC makes for a speedy recovery.

**Key Person**

Every child who attends Preschool has been allocated a Key Person. Their role is to meet the individual needs of your child, respond sensitively to their feelings and help the child develop a sense of belonging. They are responsible for keeping records of the child’s learning and development. Parents can liaise with their child’s Key Person about all aspects of their care, this can be done informally at the beginning or end of the day or more formally at a pre-arranged time. We have scheduled parent meetings for this half term so your child’s Key Person will be booking an appointment with you very soon.

**Signs 4 Feelings**

Michelle is teaching the Penguins some sign language to help them to express and understand their emotions. Each week she tells a story or teaches them a song using signing for the key words and the children listen and copy the actions. They may discuss how the child is feeling at different points in the story. Some of the children are very good at remembering the different signs. Please find attached a sheet demonstrating some of the signs we are learning so you can use them at home if you would like to do so.

**Little Wandle Foundations**

If the children move into the main school, they will follow the Little Wandle reading scheme. In Preschool we introduce the children to the Little Wandle Foundations programme. The Rhyme Time element of this programme involves the children learning a selection of Nursery Rhymes. There is a clear relationship established between children’s early knowledge of Nursery Rhymes and their later success in reading and spelling. To this end we will focus on a rhyme each week (changed fortnightly) which you can practise at home with your child to help embed the language. The current rhyme card is displayed on the classroom door.

**Dates for your Diary**

Friday 6th December – Penguins walk to St Peter’s Church to see the decorated Christmas trees – including one for Penguins – Please vote for our tree!

Friday 6th December – Christmas Fayre in school hall from 3.00pm

Monday 9th December – PTA Christmas shop from 1.00pm –

3.00pm

Thursday 12th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 19th December – Penguins Nativity performance (9.30am in the school hall)

Friday 20th December – Penguins Christmas Party (more details to follow)

Friday 20th December – End of Autumn Term

Monday 6th January – Training Day (No Preschool for the children)

Tuesday 7th January – Start of Spring Term 2025

Many thanks for your continued support with your children’s Preschool education. If you do have any questions, do ask a member of the team, we are always happy to help, or you can get in touch via email at:

[arichardson@sharnbrookprimary.beds.sch.uk](mailto:arichardson@sharnbrookprimary.beds.sch.uk)

**Thank you**

**The Preschool Team**