

# Teddy Link



## Summer Term 2017

Hello, to all our Parents and Carers!

As term five was so short, we decided to send this newsletter out early in term 6- it will be the last one for the current, academic year. Summer has made a brief appearance recently and we still have lots of exciting opportunities lined up for the children over the coming weeks!

## Rising School: preparation for starting school

Reception class visits to Manorbrook school have been arranged; dates are Mon 03/07, Wed 05/07, Tues 11/07 and Wed 12/07, 9.15-11-15. Rainbow Teddies staff will take your child and collect them **if it is your usual day at Rainbow Teddies**. The children have already been attending Manorbrook for 'informal' lunch and play sessions; in term 5.

**Independence:** To prepare R.S children for school, please encourage your child to enter the setting independently, from their appropriate 'Base Room'. If you are running a bit late, please 'handover' your child to a staff member at the door.

## Thank you!

A BIG thank you to all parents/carers who have been committee members this year and for their hard work supporting RT in various ways; including fundraising. **We will need more parents to join our committee in the new academic year, as some of our existing members are 'moving on'; when their children start the next phase of education. Please look out for a letter from our Chairperson in the coming weeks!** The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in September (date: TBC) but please do let any member of staff or committee know if you are interested before then!

## Staff Update

Sarah Webb will be going on maternity leave at the end of this term, we wish her well as she and her husband await the safe arrival of 'Baby Webb'! Kelly and Michelle will be leaving us; as both were on short term contracts, but they have been a great help to the children and staff at RT and they will

be very much missed! We welcome Angharad back from maternity leave in September 2017.

## Annual Questionnaires

These were been sent home recently and due to be returned by May 26<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we only had 19 returned; out of a possible 55- however, we have had some wonderful comments from all parents/carers who did respond- thank you! Breakdown of our overall ratings: Good= 10.53% Outstanding= 78.95% Good/Outstanding= 5.26% and one person missed the question! = 5.26%

## LUNCH TIMES

Please ensure lunches reflect healthy options - we ask that no sweets are sent in and that **NO NUT PRODUCTS** are included due to **ALLERGIES**. Please also be aware of the portion size, as children have a limited time to finish their lunch and often leave food unfinished if there is too much! **\*Please Note:** we do not have facilities to keep lunch boxes cool for the children, therefore as the warmer weather arrives, please put ice/chill packs to keep food fresh. Ideally food should only be out of the fridge for less than 4 hours.



## INVOICES/FEES

**Please ensure that these are paid by the date shown on the envelope unless other arrangements have been agreed - thank you.**

## HELPER ROTA

We invite Rising School parents, carers, grandparents and other adult family members to take part on the helper rota. A schedule is on the parent information board outside, for you to sign up. This help is really appreciated and allows us to take the children outside earlier in the session (rather than having a member of staff 'tied up' with snack duties). We also need volunteers to help with the washing; another sheet for this is also placed outside, for you to 'sign-up'. **If you would be willing to come in and give a short talk to the children, about your work/job we would love to hear from you! Please speak to a member of staff.**

## GENERAL REMINDERS

- Please ensure all coats and jumpers are named.
- Please do not park in front of the school gates or on the zig zag markings on the main road.
- Please dismount from all bikes/trikes/scooters on school grounds
- Please ensure that you shut and bolt both gates as you pass through.
- Please do not leave bikes or scooters at R.T as they are a safety risk to the children when they play outside.
- **When collecting your child, please ensure that you are positioned where the staff member releasing children can see you!**

## Health and hygiene

In order to monitor outbreaks and to protect several of our children who have a weakened immune system please notify the setting if your child is affected by any illness.

## Sickness or diarrhoea



**All** children should be kept away from pre-school for a full 48 hours from the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Guidelines state that hand hygiene greatly reduces the transfer of viruses, so please encourage and support your children to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently.

## HOLIDAYS AND ABSENCE OVER 5 DAYS

If your child is absent for any reason, please ring staff to let them know - if it is for a period of 5 days or more we require this to be put in writing (under terms of Nursery Education Grant). We have created a simple 'absence slip' to make this easier for you; please just ask a member of staff.

## PLANNING

**Term 5** Teddy Tots - Continuing to help 'every child be a talker' using nursery rhymes. Building friendships and small group activities.

Rising School - 'Thornbury' was the topic in term 5; the children learned about castles, found out about 'people who help us' and discovered where they actually live in Thornbury; using maps. The trip to Thornbury Castle was enjoyed by R.S children; with their parents/carers and staff on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May- they explored the 'great oven', the Tudor Hall and had a story and snack in the walled garden.

**Term 6** This term, plans include: transport, pirates, space, holidays, school transition, independence and preparation for school; developing the skill of using tools and equipment more effectively; **including knives and forks for RS group: please practice this at home too; especially over the summer break!**

There will also be various school visits and P.E. to **support skills of undressing/dressing; again, please support this practice at home!**

\*please see the display board outside the setting or on the website for more details on planning

## Rising School - 'Sound of the Week'

We encourage you to find an item at home with your child; beginning with the relevant 'sound' and then for them to bring it in to share with us. *We are focusing on the 'sound'* as the aim is to have children 'tune into' the initial sound in a word; this skill is needed before they can truly understand the 'rules' for *writing* words. For e.g. the sound 's' ('ss') you could use sand, soap, soup, for the initial sound but shampoo, shell and shark all begin with a sound created by blending letters (a grapheme). This will help children to learn about sound-letter correspondence; the relationship between sounds (phonemes) and the letter or letters (grapheme) which make up the sound. Please Nanda or Lynne for further information.

## PUZZLE AND GAME (PAG) LIBRARY

We have just started to trial a new Puzzle and Game (PAG) Library, with the aim of offering it to all children over the coming weeks/months. The puzzle or game can be taken home for a short period of time to share with family, promoting children's personal, social and emotional development; physical development, communication and language development and their maths and problem solving skills.

## School Transition Visits.

Parents/carers should have received invitations from your child's school regarding visits to Reception- if you are unsure about the dates for these please contact us, or the school concerned directly

**PE Kit Reminder:** All Rising School children should now have a named P.E. kit **which should be left at R.T at all times.**

### Wanted!

We need the following items of clothing to keep as spares at Rainbow Teddies: Boys and girls trousers age 5/6, boys and girls pants age 5/6, and girls socks 3-5 years.

### Trip to Cattle Country

**A visit to Cattle Country is booked for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July.**



Letters to follow early in term 6. This trip brings both Rising School and Teddy Tot families together and is usually a lovely social event for all of our children and their families. Please note that there will be NO SESSIONS at RT on this date. If you are unable to find a suitable adult to accompany your child on this visit, you will be offered a full refund for the session; if applicable.

### Thornbury Carnival Parade 1st July

The theme for the carnival this year is 'things that fly'. We invite our children to dress-up as 'Fantasy Flyers' e.g. superheroes, fairies etc. or any variation on this as we take part in the parade. We are also celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so our participation will be based on these two key elements. Please look out for further 'parade information' in term 6.

### Party Time!

All Rainbow teddies children are invited to the end of year parties:

The **Teddy Tot's** party is on **Wednesday 19th July** during the usual session time.

**Rising School's** party is on **Tuesday 18th July** during session time. Parents/carers are invited to the **Graduation ceremony at 10:45 a.m.** on the same day (details to follow).

Named party boxes will be provided beforehand for both groups of children; to bring in their own party food.

### FUNDRAISING

Our recent fundraising has enabled us to purchase maths games, books, a two-seater wagon (ride-on toy) a sand/water table and a Zoolab workshop visit- thank you so much to all who helped us to raise these funds! We have also been very fortunate in securing a grant from Thornbury Town Council; this has allowed us to purchase 4 new Kindle Fire tablets; a great hit already with children from both groups.... they are training the

staff to use them and it is going really well! Thank you very much to our Chairperson Karen Payne, who submitted the application for these on behalf of RT.

### Police Visit

Two friendly police officers visited our Rising School children on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The children learnt about what police officers do and were able to see some of the equipment they use - they also got to sit in a police car!

### Teddy Tots VIP Event

We had a successful Teddy Tots VIP event on 17<sup>th</sup> May with lots of VIP's joining us despite the weather!

### Visiting Author

Carol Bush, author of 'Today I...' came to read her newly published book to Teddy Tots on 24<sup>th</sup> May; all enjoyed the reading and engaged with the props used by Carol, to bring her story 'to life'. Leaflets about the book and Carol's website were sent home in pre-school book bags.

### RISING SCHOOL SESSION CHOICES

Letters have been sent out, requesting your preferred sessions for September. Please return your choices promptly so that replies/confirmations can be sent out early in term 6. Places are currently available every morning, for short and long sessions.

**There are spaces available in both Rising School and Teddy Tots from September 2017 please let friends and family know to give me a call or to send an email; to book a visit or for more details about sessions.**

### Final Thank you!

Thank you to all our staff, students and session helpers; for their continued hard work and dedication to Rainbow Teddies this year!

We say farewell and wish every future success to our children; and their families, leaving Rainbow Teddies at the end of term.

Here's hoping for some sunshine and an enjoyable summer break for everyone!

Kind Regards

*Nanda Lee*

**Emailing letters from Rainbow Teddies.**

Many parents are now receiving their newsletter and other information via email. As you are all aware R.T. is a charity so to try and reduce costs and save you coming out of R.T. with too much paperwork we would prefer to email all general, informative letters from the setting. If you haven't already done so please complete the form below.

If you have any queries or suggestions about Rainbow teddies please speak to a member of staff or email [rainbowteddiespreschool@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowteddiespreschool@gmail.com)

End of Term 5	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May
Start of Term 6	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June
Toy and Cake Sale	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> June
Thornbury Carnival	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> July (R.T will be in the parade. More details to follow)
End Year R.S & T.T trip to 'Cattle Country' Info to follow	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July
Rising School Graduation and Party - All R.S welcome	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July details to follow
Teddy Tot end of year party - All T.T welcome	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July details to follow
End of term 6	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July
Start of Autumn term	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> September

**PLEASE ONLY RETURN THE FORM BELOW IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO PREVIOUSLY.**

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent/carer \_\_\_\_\_

I am happy for Rainbow Teddies to email general letters to the following email address.

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am not happy for Rainbow Teddies to use email to send general letters.