

Term 2: November/December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Please take a few minutes to read our newsletter, it will help to keep you informed about what is happening at pre-school this term...

Management Committee

Thank you very much to those who supported the Annual General Meeting (AGM). We are pleased to report that we have managed to retain and recruit the required committee 'officers' along with some other willing volunteers! Sarah King is our new chairperson and Lucy Adams takes on the role of secretary- we still need a treasurer; to allow Mo Newton to step down after many years of supporting us in this role!

Helper Rota

We invite parents, grandparents and other family members of Rising School children to volunteer in our sessions; please sign-up on the Helper rota; on the wipe-board outside. As the Teddy Tots are still settling-in, parents can support the pre-school and get involved by helping with the Washing rota; also outside for you to 'sign-up'.

Teddy Tot Group

As children are settling in, we continue to learn about their individual characteristics and interests- our planned activities and experiences reflect this, along with exploring colours and nursery rhymes.

Rising School Group

This term, children will be learning about different festivals and celebrations, as well as having a visit from 'Hedgehog Rescue'. Please see our outside notice board and our website for more details about 'planning' for both groups.



Primary school admission for Sept 2020

Please log onto www.southglos.gov.uk to apply for your child's place, **by 15th January 2020.**

Supporting Independence

Please help your child by sending them to pre-school in 'easy to manage' clothes, this is especially important when they are trying to master 'toileting'- they are unable to 'wait' as an adult can, so a few extra seconds fiddling with tricky belts, buckles or buttons can really impact on their success rate!

Lunch Times

When preparing lunches for your RS child, please ensure **all lunch boxes and bottles are labelled on the outside** and due to choking hazard please cut grapes length ways and cherry tomatoes in half. Please note that **we do not allow peanut and nut products (such as Nutella).**

Funded Entitlement (FE) for Spring Term

All children who turn three between 1st September and December 31st will be eligible for 15 hours of 'Universal' funding from January 2020. Some parents may also be able to claim 'additional' funding through the 'Extended Entitlement' scheme, please check by visiting: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If you are already in receipt of the 'Extended Entitlement' (30 hours) you will need to check that your eligibility, code is still valid by latest: December 31st.

Wanted Please!

We will be creating a Winter Wonderland with the children in coming weeks; based on the film 'Frozen'- if you have any unwanted 'Frozen' merchandise, we would happy to receive it!

Fundraising Update

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the committee and; parent/carer support in the last academic year, we have been able to improve the garden; with a more attractive outside role-play area, to complement the new mud kitchen units, which we purchased with funds from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' grant. Thank you to everyone who supported our recent cake sale; we made a very respectable £83!

More About Fundraising

As you shop for the festive season, please remember that we recently signed up to 'easyfundraising.org.uk.' This is a great way to raise money for the pre-school, as when you shop online with particular retailers you can raise a free donation for Rainbow Teddies! For more information, please visit:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rainbowteddies/>

This year, we will have a table at the Manorbrook Christmas Fayre (6th December) to raise funds for Rainbow Teddies; our committee will soon be sending home information about how you can support this event.

We are always looking for companies that are willing to help groups like ours, with schemes such as 'matched funding' and/or grant schemes that we can apply for- if you work for a company that might be able to help us, or if you know someone that does, please let us know!

Share a Skill!

Do you or a family member/friend have a particular skill that you/they would be willing to share with our children? This might be creative, practical, physical etc. Would you be willing to come in to talk to the children about your job? In particular, it would be great to have male/female role models to help children learn that either gender can work successfully in many different sectors, for example a female mechanic or engineer and a male nurse or mid-wife. Please come in and speak to us if you think you can offer help with any of the above!

Gates: Safety

If you notice that either of our wooden gates has been left open when you arrive/depart, please close them! These are often left open by other people using our garden as a 'walk-through', since school improvements have made it difficult for buggy and/or wheelchair users to access areas of the school site, via the usual routes.

Rising school's Christmas Performance

Christmas performance: **Monday 16th December** with a 9:30 a.m start. **Costume details to follow!**

If your child does not usually attend on a Monday, but you would like them to be in the performance, please let Lynne know as soon as possible!

Christmas Party Time!



- **Friday 13th December:**
Teddy Tot party- all TT children welcome (details to follow)
- **Wednesday 18th December:**
Rising School party, all RS children welcome (details to follow)

Diary Dates

Tues 19th Nov	RS VIP event
Mon 9th to Fri 13th Dec	Christmas Jumper Week (for 'Save The Children')
Fri 13th Dec	TT Christmas party
Mon 16th Dec	RS Christmas Performance
Wed 18th Dec	RS Christmas party AND last day of term
Mon 6th Jan	Start term 3

With warm regards

Nanda Lee

Pre-school manager