



Hello everyone

As always, this time of year is very busy here at pre-school as we count down to the festive season and begin thinking about all things Christmas.



Whilst COVID restrictions mean that we can't do everything we would normally wish to do at this time of year, we still have lots of fun planned!

Spring/Summer Term Sessions

With child numbers increasing over the next two terms and spaces in many sessions very limited, please do not hesitate to contact Tracey if you wish to make any changes to your child's sessions or, more importantly, you wish to increase the number of sessions your child attends between now and the end of the academic year.

As always, any increase in sessions will be subject to availability and all requests to change sessions will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis.

Primary School Admissions

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 opened on Monday 2nd November with a closing date deadline of 15th January 2021.

All the information you need is available on the following website:-

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Dates for your Diary



27/11/20 Occasional Day
PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED

11/12/20 "Little City Day"
11-13/12/20 Hitchin Christmas
Tree Festival

18/12/20 Last Day of Term

04/01/21 Inset Day

05/01/21 Start of Spring Term

15/02/21 - 19/02/21 HALF TERM
PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED

26/03/21 Last Day of Term



Snack Donations

Many thanks to all those who have given a donation towards our snack expenses this half term. If you have not yet donated but feel able to do so, please hand your donation to a member of staff.

All donations are gratefully received.



Children in Need

A huge thank you to everyone who has sent in sponsor forms and money following their child's successful "Where's Pudsey Challenge".



An amazing total of £475.04 was raised!

As a result, we confirm that £285.02 will be donated to Children in Need and £190.02 will be added to pre-school funds to enable us to purchase new resources.

Smile Amazon

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? Have the brown boxes with the familiar smile started to arrive? If so, please help us to raise funds here at pre-school by using Smile Amazon when you shop.

It's so simple...shop with Amazon in the usual way (but instead via the Smile Amazon website) and every time you purchase, Amazon donate! It really is that easy! Thank you!



Christmas Tree Festival

Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival has been held every year since 1997 in Holy Saviour Church. Although it can't be held in the church this year, the 24th festival is still going ahead and we are very pleased to be taking part.

The organisers of the festival are working hard to create a Festival Trail of decorated trees in the windows of Hitchin Town Centre businesses and we have the pleasure of displaying our tree in the window of Michael Graham Living who can be found at the junction of Tilehouse Street and Bucklersbury.

Trail guides are available to purchase in the High Street on 5th and 12th December and will confirm the location of over 70 trees and Christmas displays that can be seen.

We really hope you will be able to come along and support our wonderful community.

THE HITCHIN CHRISTMAS TREE

FESTIVE TRAIL 2020

Follow the trail around the town.

Trail Guides £2 available in the High Street 5th & 12th December.

Friday
11th December
4pm - 10pm

Saturday
12th December
and
Sunday
13th December
10am - 10pm

Organised by Holy Saviour Church, home of Hitchin's Christmas Tree Festival.

www.holysaviourhitchin.org.uk
Facebook and Instagram: HitchinChristmasTreeFestival

Christmas Treat

With current restrictions meaning we are unable to organise some of our usual festive events for the children, we have been looking into alternative, Covid-safe, fun activities that we can provide.



The children are loving our ever-changing role play area at the moment so, with this in mind, we have arranged for a fabulous company by the name of Little City to visit us on Friday 11th December. Little City are an entirely mobile role play city for under 5's to explore, discover and enjoy and you can find more information about them on their website: www.littlecityuk.com. Little City have their own COVID-safe procedures which we have carefully reviewed and are fully agreeable with.



The opportunity to explore Little City is open to all our children so, if your child does not normally attend pre-school on a Friday, they are invited to join us for a couple of hours. All children **must** have a space booked and reserved for them so please e-mail Tracey via admin@pirtonpreschool.co.uk to arrange this. We have one or two slots available in the morning (9.30-11.30) but most children will be invited to attend in the afternoon (1.00-3.00).

We very much look forward to a fun day!

Christmas Raffle

Keep an eye on your inbox next week for



details of our Christmas raffle to raise funds for pre-school.

We have already had some amazing donations from local businesses and there are more to come so you will not want to miss out on your chance to buy tickets!

Operational Procedures

Attached to this newsletter are a further copy of our Operational Procedures which have been updated in the light of recent guidance changes.

Please take a moment to re-read these carefully to ensure that all procedures are being followed and do not hesitate to make contact should you have any queries.

Can we please draw your attention to the request that all non-urgent queries, messages and concerns are communicated via telephone and not to members of staff at drop-off/collection times. This is in an extra precaution in an effort to minimise contact between adults as much as possible.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Parent Consultations

Thank you to all of you for taking the time to arrange telephone consultations with your child's key person. We hope that you found them helpful and informative. The feedback we have received so far has been really positive and it's wonderful to hear how pleased you are with the progress your children are making.



If you have any further feedback following your consultation, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Parent Survey

We are pleased to have received a very positive response to our online parent survey. Thank you to all those who took the time to respond. The one area that was highlighted for improvement was the relationship between parents and their child's key worker. We have been looking at ways to improve this, however, at this time we do face challenges with the lack of face to face contact.

All staff have had one-to-one meetings with Karen recently and they have discussed ways in which relationships with parents can be promoted. Tapestry provides a great opportunity to interact with your child's key worker and we would encourage parents to refer to the guide that was sent out recently for an overview. Over the coming weeks, staff will be receiving further Tapestry training to ensure that we fully use it's features and we will provide more information about these to parents too in due course.



As always, if you have any queries or concerns that you wish to discuss with your child's key worker, they can be contacted via telephone or a message passed on for a call back via e-mail.

Term Dates 2020/21

<u>Autumn Term 2020</u>	Wednesday 2 nd September - Friday 18 th December 2020 Half Term: Monday 26 th Oct - Friday 30 th Oct 2020 Inset Days: 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th September 2020 Occasional Day: Friday 27 th November 2020
<u>Spring Term 2021</u>	Monday 4 th January - Friday 26 th March 2021 Half Term: Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th February 2021 Inset Day: Monday 4 th January 2021
<u>Summer Term 2021</u>	Monday 12 th April - Thursday 22 nd July 2021 Half Term: Mon 31 st May - Fri 4 th June 2021 Bank Holiday: Monday 3 rd May 2021 Inset Day: Friday 28 th May 2021