

## Newsletter: 6th Oct 2023



Hello everyone and a huge welcome to all our new families!

As always, it has been an incredibly busy start to the new academic year. The team have spent time visiting our new families at home, where they begin to build those new relationships to help them settle in here at pre-school.

The Autumn term is an opportunity for key persons to discover what new interests the children may have formed over the summer break. Please do remember to help with this by providing feedback via Tapestry as having this information enables your child's key person to provide engaging activities here at pre-school, to help them achieve their next steps.

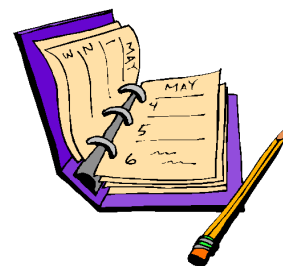


### Dates for your Diary

14/10/23 Pirton Pumpkin Show  
18/10/23 AGM @ The Fox (8pm)

23/10/23–27/10/23  
HALF TERM  
PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED

24/11/23 Occasional Day  
PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED  
01/12/23 Christmas Party 4.30-6.00pm  
20/12/23 Last day of Term



### Staffing News

As many of you will already know, we were very excited to welcome Salima Begum to the team this term. She joins us from another local setting and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She is very much looking forward to meeting you all so please do say hi!

With Sam leaving us (slightly earlier than planned!) to go on maternity leave, we will also be welcoming Ann O'Brien to our pre-school family. Some of you may already know Ann as she also works for Play Aloud in the village. Ann will be providing fixed-term cover for Sam as well as becoming part of our bank staff team.

Another familiar face will also be joining our bank staff team! Kate Burgess, who some of you may know from Pirton School, will also be on hand to provide cover when needed.

### Primary School Admissions

The application process for primary school admissions for children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 opens on Wednesday 1st November with a closing date deadline of Monday 15th January 2024.

Online applications can be made via:-

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to make contact.

# Committee News

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we're settling into the new academic year and autumn is upon us I cannot believe we are already in October! I trust you have all had a good start to the term and that we are all finding our natural flow.



To all new parents, I am Mel Davids, a former parent and current Co-Chair of the Committee. My child started Reception at Pirton School this term and though I have been involved with Pre-School for a couple of years now, I joined the committee last year. It has been an incredible experience.

We are organising a social evening at the Fox on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October from 8pm. It is an informal way to meet other parents and have a relaxing evening whilst we host our AGM and elect a new committee.

We are a small community run preschool. Pirton Pre-school is a charity run by a Voluntary Committee. Our preschool offers care and education for children aged 2+ to rising 5 years old. The Committee works with Pre-school Manager Karen Illsley to ensure we keep up to date with the latest guidance and legal requirements. We also assist with the financial running of the Pre-School including staff pay. It is quite rewarding being on the Committee and allows us to be directly involved in our children's Early Years experience.

We already have a few parents who have expressed an interest in joining us this year and I look forward to introducing you at the AGM. If anyone else wants to get involved, you are more than welcome! Fundraising is always a big hit and we need more hands on deck, so do come along! Increasing our fundraising this year will be a great help for our fantastic village Pre-School.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Committee members for all their time and effort offered to preschool activities over the last year - Andrew Prynne, Autumn Pritchard-Barrett, Anya Keshishian Blanksby, Hannah Venables, Michelle Conquest, Sarah Dyer, and Jimmy Muldoon. Thank you! You've been a dream team! And of course a HUGE thank you to Karen Illsley and all the staff for all you do to make our Pre-School such a successfully happy place for our little ones. We appreciate you.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> for a drink and a proper hello.

MEL

Hello!

I'm Michelle, one of the Trustees on the preschool Committee.

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who came along to our recent Stay and Play. We had a fabulous tombola, fairground games, craft and plenty of delicious tea and cake. We raised £272 which was wonderful!



I had the opportunity to visit pre-school recently during session time and I would like to thank the staff for being so welcoming. The team have worked really hard to implement the new curriculum and pedagogy which can be seen throughout the preschool sessions.

I saw evidence of independence and empowerment demonstrated at snack time. Children confidently poured their own drinks from a jug, chatted nicely and tidied up after themselves. After any messy activity, children washed and dried their hands independently. The craft area is very well set up for children to access anything they need to be creative.

Positive relationships were clearly demonstrated by staff and there were posters on the wall for children to see to remind them. During the morning I saw children taking turns, helping each other fix a book which was slightly ripped and sharing jugs and cups in the water tray.

It was clear that the staff encouraged children's interests through curiosity and enthusiasm. This was demonstrated with cars and a foam mattress which was made into a road. Lots of questions were asked to keep the children engaged and this enabled the game to be extended. A lot of mathematical discussion also took place which was great to see.

The maths and reading areas are really helping to implement undirected interest in literacy and mathematics. Children are able to choose a variety of books and sit comfortably in the book corner. This was used throughout the morning and it was so great seeing children developing a love of books at such an early age. Maths was seen not only in the maths area but embedded throughout the setting in circle time, play, story time and outside water play.

Pirton Preschool provides wonderful learning opportunities through play. The setting is very clearly set out for children to access any resources they need to play with. Pirton Preschoolers are very lucky to have such a lovely environment in which to learn, lead by a very kind, caring and knowledgeable team.

I had such a lovely morning and can understand why the children love going to Pirton Preschool. Thank-You!

*Michelle*

### Snack Donations

Many thanks to all those who have given a donation towards our snack and consumable 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 (bank transfers are also welcome).

All donations are gratefully received.



### Donation Requests

As you may have seen on Facebook, making "potions" is a popular activity here at pre-school and our children just love to experiment with a wide selection of ingredients! Our playdough station has also been a HUGE success. We are always grateful, therefore, for donations of unwanted or out-of-date dried goods e.g. flour, sugar, dried herbs and spices, packet mixes, coffee etc so please do bear us in mind when you're rummaging through or clearing out your kitchen cupboards.

Does your workplace produce lots of scrap paper? Do you know of any companies who need to dispose of excess or damaged paper supplies? As you can imagine, we use a lot of paper here at pre-school so would welcome any donations whatever the size, be it white or coloured, plain or lined, sheets, pads or rolls. Even left over or unwanted wallpaper would be great!

Please hand any donations to a member of staff—thank you!



### Pirton Pumpkin Show

The annual village pumpkin show will be taking place on Saturday 14th October in the Village Hall.

We are very excited to be submitting two entries in the "Children's Decorated Pumpkin—Group Entry" class, with Helen, Salima, Karen I and their key children taking on Michelle, Ashleigh, Karen R and their children for the coveted prize! Please do keep an eye on our Facebook page for photos of the final entries.

Pre-school children are also invited to enter the colouring competition and colouring sheets will be sent home in their trays so they can take part, if they would like to.

Good luck to everyone!



**PIRTON PRESCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

*Friday 1st December*  
**4.30PM-6PM**  
**PIRTON PRESCHOOL**  
**£5 PER FAMILY**  
**NO NEED TO BOOK 😊**

Dancing, craft, hotdogs, Santa and lots more fun!



## Pirton School Tours for new Reception parents

Come and see our school in action!

Tours take place on  
11th October  
18th October  
1st November

Please contact the office to book a place! 01462 712370

We will have a Reception class with spaces for 30 children in September 2024. Come and see what we offer!

### Reminders

We attach a copy of our Attendance Policy and would remind all parents of the need to notify us of a child's absence and the reason for the absence by 9.30am (or 12.30pm if attending an afternoon session).

Any "on-the-day" messages for the team concerning your child's attendance e.g. a change to the person collecting/time of collection, must be **telephoned** in to the setting to ensure that they are received and actioned.

Can we also please remind parents to ensure that all of their child's belongings (coats, jackets, lunchboxes etc) are **clearly labelled with their name**. You'll be surprised how many children have similar or even identical items and ensuring they are named makes re-uniting them with their owners much easier if they go missing!

### Website Assistance

Are you a whizz with websites or do you know someone who is? We are looking for someone with a knowledge of WordPress who can provide a little assistance to Tracey every now and then with the maintenance of the pre-school website (basically to help her out when she gets stuck or when something goes wrong!).

If you think you may be able to help, please get in touch!



### Term Dates

#### Autumn Term 2023

Friday 1st September—Wednesday 20th December  
Half Term: Monday 23rd—Friday 27th October

**Inset Day: Friday 1st September**  
**Occasional Day: Friday 24th November**

#### Spring Term 2024

Thursday 4th January—Thursday 28th March  
Half Term: Monday 19th—Friday 23rd February

**Inset Days: Thursday 4th and Friday 5th January**

#### Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April—Tuesday 23rd July  
Half Term: Monday 27th—Friday 31st May

**Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May**  
**Inset Days: Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July**