

Moonbeams Pre-school CIO
Newsletter.
January– February 2025

Hall contact number 01249 652363 Pre-school mobile 07960518110

Email: moonpreschool@aol.co.uk, Website Moonbeams Preschool

Facebook - Moonbeams Preschool

Morning sessions - Monday to Friday (no Wednesday): 9.15 am to 11.45am,

Lunch Club - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 11.45-12.15pm

Afternoon sessions - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 12.15 pm to 2.45pm

A message from Justine.

Congratulations to all those who participated in the Nativity performance in December – a brilliant display of how they have learnt new skills, songs and the nativity story – well done! And to those that performing was a step too much this time, that's fine also – I can tell you that whilst practicing at preschool they have been in fine voice and knew the actions – although I am sure you will already know that from renditions at home!!!

The children enjoyed such a fun day with a brilliant show from Dave Hickory – the children sat so well for this and were captivated with the magic, balloons, fun and games during the performance. Father Christmas arrived in his sleigh and spoke to all those who wanted to have a chat! A super end to a busy term!!

With best wishes, Justine – Chair.

The importance of craft activities. At Moonbeams the children are all encouraged to have a go with craft activities. Sometimes our craft table has a specific “make” for the children to follow instructions, practice their scissors control, develop their own creativity and interpretation as well as enjoying textures and different materials to name but a few benefits! Other days the children can choose from the cupboard what they want to explore or make. This can involve different ways of sticking things together such as glue sticks, celloptape, pva glue or string for example and will encourage problem solving skills to complete their own project. Often the finished product will not look like anything in particular to us, but then we haven't had the insight that the preschoolers have in their own minds! At such times if the child can tell us about their creation we can share their enthusiasm, or just appreciate their work and time taken to complete their project with

them. Most children will be pleased to show an adult/parent their work and bask in the limelight of praise and support!!

Footwear. With the weather being changeable or challenging (!) at this time of year, it may be necessary for your children to wear wellies to preschool, especially if walking. To keep the hall floor dry and safe we ask that an alternative be provided once inside. Wellies are not that comfy for playing on the floor. Please pop you child's name any shoes/trainers or wellies that will be taken off at preschool. We do encourage the children to wear something on their feet at all times to protect them from floor toys and slipping on the floor.

If we go out in the garden when it is wet, we have lots of wellies for the children to wear to save their own shoes getting muddy. Also it's a great activity to encourage independence with putting on and taking off shoes and wellies themselves. We do also encourage the children to manage their own coats – it can be very easy to do this for them but if you can allow a little more time most preschool children can put their coats on and manage the zips/buttons by themselves with practice.

Just in case you missed it – **Tina** and **Vicki** have now been at Moonbeams for 30 years!! Amazing isn't it?!! We are so lucky to have them as part of our team – they have worked with so many children over that time who will all remember them for their caring and supportive presence. And yes, they are twins!!!

Did you know that Moonbeams was called Sheldon Road Playgroup previously and was located in a wooden hut where Travis Perkins is now along Sheldon Road? The preschool moved to a mobile on the Frogwell School site whilst the amazing preschool committee at the time got the new Kingsley Road Community Hall built for the local area although primarily for the newly named Moonbeams Preschool. Tina, Vicki and Alison were involved with the preschool during this transition period!

If you have anything you wish to discuss, or have any worries please do have a chat with either your child's keyworker, Alison - Manager and SENCo (Special Educational Needs coordinator) or Justine our Chair, or via the contacts listed at the beginning of the newsletter.

Important Information for your Reference:

Extreme weather conditions, or unforeseen closure. Should we have to close for any extreme weather conditions we will ensure notices are put on the facebook pages. Any weather conditions that are deemed a Red Weather Warning will usually result in the council closing preschools and schools. Again, should this happen we will advise on our Facebook page, or contact anyone not using this media facility. Similarly should the preschool have to close due to a utilities failure such as no electric or water for example or any other situation whereby it would be considered unsafe to remain open we will contact all parents of attending children to collect their offspring.

Sickness Guidelines, as a small group in the one main hall, passing on any infection can happen and we appreciate children with coughs, colds, sickness or diarrhea are kept at home until well please. Recommended NHS recovery times are as follows:

Temperatures: to remain at home until 24 hours at normal temperature

Sickness and Diarrhea: 48 hours since last bout of illness

Coughs and colds: until feeling better and not at risk of sneezing and coughing uncontrollably and normal temperature for 24 hours.

Covid; to remain home until all symptoms have gone – temperature, cough and cold symptoms, or are testing negative.

If your child is having Calpol then they really should be home until well.

Absences.

Our duty of care for the children at Moonbeams extends to those times they are not attending as well as when in preschool. If your child is poorly or you will be away on holiday during term time you must inform us prior to the holiday or as soon as you realise your child is not well enough to attend.

This can be verbally or by a text message to the preschool mobile number 07960518110 or via our landline or email. Thankyou.

Grants. If you would like to apply for funding for two-year-olds you can do so this term via the Wiltshire Council Early Years website for the next funding period which begins 1st April 2025, always worth checking! New funding opportunity for two year olds with both parents working! If you fall into this category you may be eligible for this new funding (currently 15 hours per week for this age group) – please check out the Childcare Choices website or the Wiltshire Council Early Years section. If you are interested in the 30-hour funding for three and for year olds for working parents you can

apply for this via the Wiltshire Council Early Years section of their website or Childcare Choices. The next funding period starts from 1st January. For this grant there are a few specific requirements you need to achieve before being awarded the funding from HMRC. The aim is to help both parents be able to work by providing extra child care funding.

Parents of those children eligible for any grant allocation are asked to sign a parent's declaration form termly, which confirms your child is attending Moonbeams and we will claim it on your behalf. Grant funding is paid three times a year directly to preschool; September to December, January to March and April to July, the term after their birthday or when the funding has been awarded. Once the funding has been agreed then it cannot be changed until the following funding period.

Dates for the Diary:

Term Dates;

Term Three: Monday 6th January to Friday 14th February

Holiday - Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

Term Four: Monday 24th February to Friday 4th April

Holiday – Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April

Term Five: Tuesday 22nd April to Friday 23rd May

Holiday Monday 26th May to Friday 30th June

Term Six: Monday 2nd June to Friday 18th July

We are open for 38 weeks per academic year, to be in line with the council funding allocations

Name.....

Colouring Competition/Draw

Here is a picture for your child to complete as best they can. Bring it back to preschool with £1 entry and they might win a lovely prize!

Parents Comments. Please use the back of this page to jot down anything that you would like us to address or bring to our attention. All responses will be professionally and respectfully considered.



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