

Danbury Pre-Schools

Registered Charity no: 1111808

DFES/Ofsted nos: 520349/581607 PSLA membership no. 10584

Website: www.danburypreschools.org.uk



Newsletter

November 2008

It's the countdown to Christmas already! We have a number of festive events going on at pre-school during this part of term, so take note of the dates!

Topics (Dates are approximate)

3rd November – Fireworks
10th November – Families
17th November – Emotions
24th November – Senses
1st December – Christmas
8th December – Christmas
15th December - Party week

The pm sessions include a 'Show & Tell' time linked to the topic of the week. If any child brings in a topic related item into the morning session we do try to include a show and tell for them.

Diary Dates 2008

Monday November 17th – INSET Day. Coffee morning at First Friends for both settings

Tuesday 18th November – Good as New Sale

Wednesday 17th December Nativity at First Friends (Details to follow)

Wednesday 17th December – Mince Pie Morning at Busy Bees (Details to follow)

Thursday December 18th - Christmas Party

Wednesday 28th January 2009 – **INSET day**

Thursday 2nd July 2009 – **INSET day**

Photos of Families

On the week commencing November 10th we will be talking about families at pre-school. Could you please send your child with a picture of different generations of their family to aid discussion.

Recycled Boxes

Busy Bees has received enough recycling for the time being but please continue to save those boxes if you have the space and we will let you know when we need some more. Thank you to everyone for the huge amount we have recently received. Well done.

Parent Rota

Could you volunteer a morning or couple of hours of your time to help out at pre-school? We have a parent rota in both settings, so please do sign up. If someone from every family could volunteer to help out it would be enormously appreciated. An extra person makes a big difference in a session and means the staff have more time to work with our children.

Washing tablet bags needed at Busy Bees!

If you have any spare washing tablet bags, please would you bring them into Busy Bees for use in Senses week (November 24th). Thanks

Inset Days

The next two Inset Days are scheduled for Monday November 17th and Wednesday 28th January. Please be aware that these sessions will still be charged for as per Pre-school policy. All policies are available to parents at each setting.

Inset days are an essential part of the function of the Pre-Schools. They allow for staff training to ensure your child gets the best attention and successful progression during their time at preschool.

To maintain a fair distribution of Inset days to children that don't attend every session they are rotated. Future Inset days will be Thursday 2nd July 2009. We will inform you if there are any changes.

Coffee Morning on Monday 17th November

This will be held at First Friends (930am-11am) for parents and children of both settings. Come along to play with the toys have a cup of tea/coffee, a biscuit and a chat. Donations welcome.

Volunteers Required for Holiday Play Club

We were unable to run the holiday club during half term due to lack of volunteers. It proved to be very popular during the summer, but we must have volunteer helpers to enable the holiday club to continue. If you could spare a small amount of your time to help out, please contact Charlotte Jones on the number below.

NVQ Training

The Pre-Schools are committed to professional development for both staff and volunteers. As part of this ongoing development we would like to congratulate staff members Charlotte Jones, Belinda Owers and Sarah Jane Wood, and committee members Paula Day, Debbie Hay and Emma Hinton on passing their NVQ2. Well done!

Pre-School Assistant at First Friends

We are looking for a new pre-school assistant to work on Tuesdays from 5th January and Wednesdays from 1st February.

Applicant should be enthusiastic, hard working and flexible as extra cover is often needed. You must have a minimum of NVQ2 or be willing to start training immediately. We offer an hourly rate of £5.73 but can offer more for qualified staff. Hours are 8.45 - 1.15pm (Tuesdays) and 8.45-12.15pm (Wednesdays).

We are also looking for relief staff who can offer us flexibility for emergency cover, again trained or willing to train.

Please contact Charlotte Jones on the number below if you are interested.

Committee Member needed

We will need a new Fundraising committee member from March 2009. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact a member of the committee, or Charlotte Jones on the number below.

Christmas Phoenix Card Catalogues

These will be left out at Busy Bees for parents/carers to take away & have a look at. 10% of total orders are donated to the Pre-Schools.

Stone Photography

This will be on Friday 14th November at the URC Hall from 3pm-5.30pm. If you would like to have a photo taken please contact Emma on 01245 221419. They really are extremely good and make excellent presents!

Farewell

Farewell to Nicci Bucknell who is leaving us after many years of service. We wish her well.

GOOD AS NEW SALE

Tuesday November 18th 10.30am-12pm at Danbury Sports and Social Centre in the Sports Hall (Entrance £1 per adult)

- Items to be sold must be brought to the hall on the day between 9 - 9.45am.
- We will accept children's toys, books, videos, DVDs, children's clothes (0-7yrs, baby equipment and maternity wear in clean, complete and very good condition.
- Only one bag of winter clothes **on hangers** per household please. Unlimited toys, books etc can be offered for sale. Please package items carefully as we are unable to compensate for items that become separated.
- Please use labels of reasonable size with readable writing on books/ boxes etc, and one inch square labels pinned to clothing. Include your name and the price of the item.
- Danbury Pre-Schools will charge 25% commission on all items sold. For Further information contact: 01245 221419.

We need lots of volunteers to help at the sale. There will be a list at each setting, so please sign up.

Fundraising

You can shop for less and support us by visiting www.buy.at/danburypreschools. This is a shopping portal that links to 100s of popular online shops including M&S (free delivery and 3 for 2s), Tesco, Mothercare, Early Learning Centre, John Lewis, Play.com, cdwow!, Waterstones, Amazon, Ikea, Goldsmiths, Thorntons and Pizza Hut. There are new shops on there every week. You do not have to register any details on this site, it is merely a portal to the shops that pay us commission on any sales made. This was really successful last year and we raised about £150 just by parents clicking through the site doing their shopping. Please support us and use it when you can.

We also raise money via the Co-Operative Community Card scheme. If you regularly shop at Co-op and do not have a card, please speak to your supervisor.

Appropriate Clothing

The cold weather has arrived, so please ensure that your child has warm clothing to enable him/her to play outside