



**Handsworth Pre-School
Newsletter – Autumn Term 1st
Half**

Welcome and welcome back: Firstly, a very warm welcome to all our new children and families who will be starting over the next couple of weeks. A warm welcome back to our returning families. We hope you had a lovely summer break. To help with settling, our curriculum focus this half term is 'all about me', thinking about likes, dislikes, friends, family etc.

Next week (w/c 23rd Sept) we will be thinking about our favourite foods.

W/c 30th Sept, we are thinking about where we live. Any donations of (nut free) cereal boxes for that week would be welcome. We plan to use them to make houses, homes or other places to live.

W/c 7th Oct, will look at our families. We would like to make a 'families' board, so if you can spare a photo of your child and your family, that would be great. Photos would only be displayed in the setting during session time.

W/c 14th Oct, will look at Autumn.

A big thank you...to all the parents for their very kind gifts and comments at the end of last year. If you are still in touch with any families who have left, please pass on our thanks. Thanks also to the Committee and everyone who supported our fundraising last year. We have been able to buy some new resources, which you should see in and around the setting in the coming weeks.

Committee and Chairperson Vacancy: We encourage you all to be involved in the Committee either by taking on a named role, by helping out or by supporting the Committee run activities. We need a good representation of parents (or other family members) on the Committee to help us build our Pre-School community and to offer activities like coffee mornings, the annual fete etc. The Committee's Annual General Meeting will be on 9th Oct at 8pm. Please come along. In addition, our current Chair, Alpesh, is stepping down as he and his family are moving out of the area. We therefore need a

volunteer to be our Chair. This is a key named role in the Committee and as part of our Constitution, we must have a named Chair. It is not an onerous role and does allow you to be just that little bit more involved in what we do. If you are interested, please speak to Janet (Pre-School Leader) or Ruth (Business Manager).

Notices and messages: In our feedback questionnaire at the end of the summer term, we were asked if we can email out the newsletter, letters, notices etc. rather than put copies in book bags. From this point onwards, we will email the newsletter, letters and regular notices etc. We will have a few hard copies available in the Pre-School and will display a copy of the correspondence that has been sent out. We will continue to put occasional notices in book bags, and messages in your home-school diary. If you would prefer to receive letters in hard copy only, please let Janet know.

Reminders...after the long summer break:

We will shut the main front door at 9.15am, for registration. If you can get here between 9.00am – 9.15am, that would be helpful.

Please ensure your child has a named bag with a change of clothes/nappy change. We have a new coat rack in the entrance. Please hang change bags on the hooks on the wall and coats on the rack. Due to storage restrictions, please take the bag home each day.

Snack donations: we politely request a voluntary donation of £1 per week towards the costs of snacks.

Books and puzzles: home reading books are changed each week (please bear with us for a little while as we get into routine). The puzzle library is in the entrance every day. You and your child can choose a puzzle to take home. There is a sign out/in book in the box.

Outdoor play: hopefully the weather will remain decent for a few weeks more but... a reminder that we do have an open door policy and allow children to play outside in (almost) all weathers. Please make sure your child has suitable outdoor clothing. Please

make sure coats etc are clearly named.

Diary dates: our first stay and play week of this year will be 14th-18th Oct. There will be a sign-up sheet on the door about a week in advance. Half term is 21st-25th Oct. Pre-School returns Tuesday 29th Oct (staff have a training day on the Monday). Any updates or changes to diary dates will be on our website.

If you have any questions or comments, please have a word with Janet (Pre-School Leader) or Louise (Deputy). Staff are available for a quick word on the door (and a different member of staff opens the main door each day). If you have a query or question that may need a longer or more confidential discussion, staff may suggest a meeting, or you can ask for one.

Janet