Newsletter

Welcome to the second half of our autumn term. There is always lots happening in November, including the exciting countdown to all things Christmas! Read below for more news; please also take note of our housekeeping page that contains some important and useful information.

What we've been doing…
At the end of last term we had our amazing Halloween week of wonderful costumes and we raised an amazing amount of money through your generous donations and cake sale! We have enjoyed a fireworks theme on the craft tables and the children used lots of fabulous colours and glitter to create amazing pictures. We have also collected seasonal resources to use on our craft tables and messy trays including leaves, pine cones, twigs and acorns. We celebrated Diwali in October and have made some lovely poppy crafts for Remembrance Day. Fast approaching is our favourite time of the year – Christmas! Time for glitter, sparkles, tree decorating and lots of festive fun in preschool.

Photographer
A photographer will be visiting preschool on Wednesday 12th November for Caterpillars and Thursday 13th November for Butterflies. All children who are in preschool will have photos taken. If you are not in preschool on those days but would like to bring your child in for photos, please let Siobhan know and she will book them in. Photos will be back before the end of term and make lovely Christmas presents!

Children in Need
We will be joining in with Children in Need on Friday 14th November. We've got lots of fun activities happening all week and we'll be having a dress up day for staff on Friday. Children are welcome to dress up in anything they love to wear! We will have a collection bucket in preschool during the week; donations aren't necessary but if you'd like to put in a few pennies for Children in Need, please do.

AGM & Parent Meetings
Please don't forget the AGM on Thursday 20th November at 7pm at Kempshott Under Fives (St Mark's Church, Homesteads Road). Your attendance is very important. Emails with full details have been sent – we will send a reminder of the full details. Parent meetings with your child's key carer will take place at the AGM where you will hear all about your child's progress and staff can answer any questions. **We still need more volunteers to join the Preschool Management Committee, if you are keen to get more involved in supporting the preschool, please let Siobhan know.**

January Sessions
If you have requested additional sessions for January, these have now been confirmed. If you haven't received an email, or you wish to add more sessions, please let us know. If you haven't requested any extra hours your sessions will remain the same. For those with new hours, please complete and return the funding form asap.

Wellies
Please send your children with wellies. We like to make the most of the great outdoors and the grass is very wet and muddy at this time of year. We access the garden in all weathers, and we all know how much children love puddles!

Christmas Party
We will be having a Christmas party for ALL children on Thursday 18th December, finishing at 12pm. Plans are taking shape and we will email out more details closer to the time. Please save the date for ALL children to come in and celebrate with us.

Preschool Taster Session for Prospective Families
We are trying to boost our waitlist numbers and raise awareness of our lovely preschool, so we are hosting an open day play session to prospective families on Thursday 20th November at 10am. Please help us spread the word to any families that might be looking for a preschool for this academic year or next, and invite them along to see us on 20th November.

House Keeping

NO NUTS or POPCORN in lunchboxes & PLEASE SLICE GRAPES & MINI SAUSAGES

We have children in preschool with **severe allergies** to nuts and traces of nuts. We are a completely **nut-free** preschool so please don't include nuts, or nut-based products (Including chocolate spread) in packed lunches. Please **DO NOT PACK POPCORN**, this is a choking hazard and always **SLICE GRAPES AND MINI SAUSAGES** - whole grapes are a serious choking hazard to preschoolers, please slice lengthways.

30 hours funding

If you have a code to claim 30 hours childcare or two year funding, please remember to keep your account up to date. To keep your government funding active, you need to check your details are up to date every 3 months. Go to gov.uk/childcareaccount.

Asthma Inhalers

If your child has asthma and has been prescribed an inhaler, please ensure you bring an inhaler and spacer into preschool with your child. Please do not leave these in bags – please hand to a member of staff.

Easy Clothing!

At HWU5s we encourage children to practice skills which make them independent, such as taking themselves to the toilet and taking off and putting on outdoor clothes (great preparation for school, especially for PE lessons!). Please could you dress your child in "easy clothing" for preschool to help them manage these tasks. Please could we ask that you label all of your children's clothing and bags.

Accidents Outside of Preschool

Please inform us at the start of your child's session if they have had an accident at home. It is helpful for us to know of a pre-existing injury just in case we are unsure if it happened whilst at preschool.

Quarantine Reminder for Sickness and Diarrhoea

Just a little reminder that if your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea they should not return to preschool until they have had at least 48 hours clear. This will help prevent the spread of the virus and also help protect staff from illness.

Absence

Please always give us a quick call to notify us if your child is absent on 01256 322788. It's important that we keep our registers up to date.

Prescribed Medication

Please speak to staff to ensure full details are given and recorded should your child require medication to be administered.

Medications in Bags

If your child brings any form of medication into preschool including Vaseline, lip salve, anti bacterial hand gel, please could you hand it to a member of staff and not leave in the children's bags. Thank you.

Pre-loved Uniform

Lisa has a selection of pre-loved uniform items for sale. All proceeds from pre-loved uniform sales go towards our preschool's fundraising. Please see Lisa if you are interested in taking a look.

Help Raise Funds for our Preschool

As you know our preschool is a charity, so fund raising is vitally important to us - it helps us update and add to our toys and resources for the children. There are easy ways to help us raise some much needed additional funds - you could be helping us raise money each time you shop online...
You can raise valuable funds for our preschool when shopping online with many other retailers such as John Lewis, Sainsburys, Argos, M&S and many more… Just by registering with easyfundraising.
Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping fundraising site. It's simple to use and it doesn't cost you anything!
You could help our preschool so much, just by logging in to easyfundraising and going shopping!
- https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hatchwarrenu5s/
Once you've registered - perhaps you could spread the word to family and friends to help us raise more!

Stay & Play with your child

Parents are always welcome to stay and play at preschool sessions – just let a member of staff know that you're staying and follow the safeguarding procedures that you'll find when you sign in the visitor's book.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 12th November	Photographer (Caterpillars) – photos in time for Christmas!
Thursday 13th November	Photographer (Butterflies)
Thursday 20th November	Preschool Open Day, play session 10am
Monday 25th November	AGM – 7pm. KU5's, St Mark's Church, Homesteads Road
Wednesday 17th December	Last preschool sessions
Thursday 18th December	Christmas party – all children (AM)
Friday 19th Dec – 4th January	Preschool closed. CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday 5th January	Return to preschool for new term

Full term dates are listed on our calendar, which you can view on our website here:
https://hatchwarren.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk/diary/list/

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