Newsletter

Welcome to the second half of our autumn term. There is lots happening at preschool, including the very 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.

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What we've been doing…
At the end of last term we had our fun Halloween week of wonderful costumes and Halloween activities, thank you to all of our families that donated to our Halloween fundraising pot, we raised £30.08 for the preschool. This half term has started with fireworks, we have enjoyed a fireworks theme on the craft tables and the children used lots of fabulous colours to create amazing pictures. We have also been collecting seasonal resources to use for crafts and messy trays including leaves, pine cones, twigs and acorns.
Coming up… Next week we will be celebrating Diwali and Remembrance Day. And fast approaching is our favourite time of the year – Christmas! Time for glitter, sparkles, tree decorating and lots of festive fun in preschool.

AGM & Parent Meetings – Monday 9th November
Please don't forget the AGM on Monday 9th November. Your attendance is very important, we currently do not have enough families registered to be able to run our AGM, so please book your place. Emails with full details have been sent – and more reminders of the full details will keep following! 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.**

Photographer
A photographer will be visiting preschool on Thursday 12th November for individual photos. All children who are in preschool will have photos taken. If you are not in preschool on Thursday 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!

Christmas cards
The children have been busy making very special Christmas cards. Over the next week you will see your designs being posted in Tapestry with a QR code and details on how to order. There is a strict order deadline of Monday November 16th. If you need help with your order, please see Siobhan and she will help you in preschool.

Children in Need
We will be joining in with Children in Need on Friday 13th 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.

Christmas Raffle
Our Christmas raffle has now launched and tickets are available to purchase via a QR code. Siobhan has sent information in an email and there are posters with the QR code displayed in preschool – ideal for those that don't carry money! The Christmas raffle is a big fundraiser for the preschool, so please share the information with friends and relatives to buy tickets. There are lots of wonderful prizes including pantomime tickets, massages, Bucklebury Farm vouchers, Millers Ark vouchers and much more!

Christmas Party
We will be having a Christmas party for ALL children on Wednesday 16th December. 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. Parents will be invited to join us at the end of the party for our sing-a-long with Santa.

January Sessions
Extra sessions for January have now been confirmed. If you were expecting to hear about extra sessions and have not received an email, please get in touch. If you would like to add more sessions, we still have some availability so please let us know.

Wellies and warm clothes
The weather has definitely cooled off in the last week, so please could you ensure your children bring warm clothes and coats. We access the garden in all weathers, so please send your child with (named) wellies and raincoats in cold and wet weather.

Please Label Belongings
It's very hard to keep track of all of the children's belongings, so please label everything! We have a number of children with identical water bottles and a few matching lunch boxes. Please also label all clothes, bags, coats, water bottles, lunch boxes etc.

Toys from Home
Please do not bring in toys from home. Toys can get lost of broken in preschool which can be very upsetting for the children. If your child has a comforter that you would like them to have, please pack it in your child's bag and we will get it out as and when needed.

Calpol/Nurofen
Please keep your child at home if they have had Calpol or Nurofen within the last 24 hours. Calpol can mask an illness and we would like to prevent the spread of illness within preschool.

Snack/consumables fees
We provide morning and afternoon snack at preschool, there is small consumables charge that goes towards the cost of snack, resources and extra activities that we organise outside of the EYFS curriculum. Charges are £1 for children doing up to ten hours, £2 for 10-20 hours and £3 for 20-30 hours.
All funded and part funded children will automatically be opted in for consumable charges which are charged in a termly invoice, however if you wish to opt out please contact Julie on farebrotherjulie@gmail.com or talk to the manager at the setting.

Nappies & wipes
If your child is in nappies, please ensure you pack enough spare nappies, wipes and nappy sacks in their bag. Preschool does not provide nappies and wipes.

Emails
You should now be receiving emails from us. Siobhan will send any important news from the manager's account preschoolmail@aol.com, and any general information will be sent from our admin account hwu5preschool@aol.com - if you are not receiving any emails please let us know.
If you wish to notify us of absences or any day to day child related information, please email Siobhan (preschoolmail@aol.com). If you wish to discuss sessions or have any admin queries, such as Tapestry accounts or updates to contact information etc, please email Luisa (hwu5preschool@aol.com). If you have any finance related queries, please contact Julie (Farebrotherjulie@gmail.com)

House Keeping

NO NUTS in lunchboxes, NO POPCORN in lunchboxes & PLEASE SLICE GRAPES

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. If we haven't heard from you, we will contact you after the session has started to check that everything is OK.

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 a couple of 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 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

Monday 9th November	AGM – @ Hatch Warren Under Fives Preschool
Tuesday 15th December	Last preschool sessions
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas party – all children (AM)
Thursday 17th Dec – Friday 1st January	Preschool closed. CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday 4th January	Return to preschool for new term
Friday 12th February	Last preschool sessions
Monday 15th Feb – Friday 19th Feb	Half term. Preschool closed
Monday 22nd February	Return to preschool

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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