

September 2019

We are looking forward to welcoming back our returning children after the Summer Holidays and to meeting all our new children. We hope you have had a lovely summer and managed a holiday in our unpredictable weather!

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that our Open Day for both new and returning children is on Saturday 31st August from 10-12pm. All family members are welcome – including any grandparents who will be dropping off or collecting on your behalf. This is an opportunity for your children to familiarise themselves with pre-school and for new children, it is invaluable in preparing them for the start the following week as they get to play whilst feeling secure with their families. You will also be able to meet and chat to your child's Key Worker. Whilst younger children (i.e. those not going on to school the following year) usually start a week later, this year as we have few younger children we have decided to welcome all the children at the same time, so all children will start the week commencing 2nd September. I appreciate that many of you will have siblings that do not start back until the Tuesday or Wednesday (depending on which school they attend) and it is entirely up to you to decide whether you want your younger child to start on the Monday, or for them to begin once School returns.

For new parents, we have a closed Facebook Group that you can apply to join called "Parents of Upton Village Pre-school". We upload daily posts/videos so you can see what your child is doing during the day, and this acts a prompt for conversation with your child about the friends they have made in Pre-school and what they have been doing during the day. We are currently in the process of deleting last year's posts due to GDPR so will approve requests in the near future, but please feel free to look us up and apply to join in the meantime.

In addition, we provide a daily update on our chalkboard, which you will see on the wall opposite the wooden fence and this is where you will wait to drop off/collect your child at the beginning and end of the day. We also hold two Parent's Evenings during the year, the first of which will be held before the October half-term – more about this during the term! We also send your child's Learning Journey home at the end of each full term. This is their record of their achievements in Pre-school and where your child's Key Worker plans for their next steps. Twice a year we also send home a "Child Development Plan" summarising your child's strengths and the areas we are looking to develop and also ask whether there is something you would like us to work on together. We hope that these stages of feedback will ensure you are regularly updated about your child and they proved to be much appreciated by last year's parents. You are of course, more than welcome to have a chat with either myself or your child's Key Worker at any time and we are happy to speak with you at drop off or pick up time (we would just ask you to wait until all the children have entered or left) or please feel free to book an appointment.

On Wednesday 16th October we will be holding our AGM. This is when we have to elect our Committee Members, as we are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and as such, run by a voluntary committee of Trustees comprising of staff, parents and interested community members. If you would like to become involved in Pre-school life a little more, please come and have a chat with either Heather or Julie who can give you more details. We meet once per half term for a couple of hours in an evening, usually in an informal setting such as the Wheatsheaf Pub. If you are interested, you will need to write just a short paragraph about yourself so this can be advertised prior to the meeting and on the night we vote you in! We would like as many parents as possible to attend the evening as the staff will be there too and it is a good opportunity to chat about your children, and meet

the parents of the children your child will have come home chatting about! The AGM will be held in our Pre-school room at 8pm - watch out for further details.

The term dates for 2018-2019 are as follows:

Term	Pre-school starts	Pre-school breaks up
Autumn 1 st half term	Monday 2 nd September	Friday 25 th October
Autumn 2 nd half term	Monday 11 th November	Friday 20 th December
Spring 1 st half term	Monday 6 th January	Friday 14 th February
Spring 2 nd half term	Monday 24 th February	Friday 3 rd April
Summer 1 st half term	Monday 20 th April	Friday 22 th May
Summer 2 nd half term	Monday 1 st June	Friday 17 th July

Easter Weekend 10th April – 13th April

May Day bank holiday – Monday 4th May 2019

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OCTOBER HALF-TERM IS 2 WEEKS WHICH FOLLOWS THE UPTON HEATH SCHOOL CALENDAR TO ALLOW THE SCHOOL TO MOVE INTO THE NEW BUILDING.

This term we say “Happy Birthday to Freya, Beatrice, Ruby and Zayaan who turn 4 and to Reuben and Louis who turn 3.

For parents of children who are moving on to school in 2020, the Council is yet to release the date that you need to apply for your child’s school place. As soon as we become aware of this date, we will email you to remind you to complete the online application process.

Lastly, a couple of reminders.....please return your funding forms as soon as possible (these are given out at the Open Day or on your child’s first day at Pre-school). The final date for funding claims is Thursday 12th September and funding claims or any changes to your child’s hours (if funded) cannot be made beyond this date. For returning children, I would be very grateful if you could return any Learning Journeys as soon as possible as staff update these on an ongoing basis.

Please also remember that parking is **not** allowed on school grounds during term times so if you have relatives dropping off or collecting your child, please do let them know.

I would also ask that if you send your child in with grapes at lunchtime, these need to be sliced lengthways to prevent a choking hazard. This is on the recommendation of the Paediatric First Aid Training we have received. If you do forget, please don’t worry as staff cut up any grapes that are whole.

We also keep the kitchen towelling industry going all by ourselves – so if you would like to kindly donate a roll to keep us going, we would be very grateful. Thank you.

Many thanks,
Heather and Staff