

# Upton Village Pre-school

**November 2019**

Well, we've all just about managed to survive the extraordinarily long first half-term! Your children have all settled in really well during the first half term, and in some ways the long half-term made it easier for them as it gave them a really good opportunity to "find their feet", begin to make friendships and learn the boundaries and routines of pre-school. I'm sure this next half-term will fly by – especially as we begin to talk about Christmas, so I apologise if we start getting the children excited early on!

Thank you to those parents who attended our AGM at which new members of the Executive Committee were voted in. Our committee now comprises of the following people: Jackie Johnson (our Treasurer), Katie Hughes and Shema Emami (both parents of children who attended last year) Heather Evans, Julie Charlton and Stacey Richards as staff and parents of children attending Pre-school currently: Tim Cookson (Mari's dad), Michelle Taylor (Charlie's mum), Stephanie Collins (Oliver's mum) and Jemma Bronnert (Sophie B's mum)

Before the build up to Christmas begins, we will be starting off the term by talking about those less fortunate than ourselves by launching our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. We have already sent each child home with a leaflet which explains what items can be included and would ask that if you are able, to contribute an item for a box so we can create several boxes from Pre-School. You are more than welcome to create your own shoebox if you prefer and some spare boxes are available at pre-school. However, as each box now costs £5 to send, if you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the boxes we send, this would be much appreciated. The boxes are being collected on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** so if all contributions could be in by this date we would appreciate it. If your child did not attend during the last week of last term (or I missed giving you one!), here is the link if you would like further information:

[www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)

Our Christmas Party is being held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December between 11am-2.30pm. This is for **all school leavers** – even if your child does not usually attend on a Friday. Unfortunately, it is just not possible to invite all children, so next year will be your child's turn if they are not going to school this year. Younger children will already have had this amended on their invoice if they usually attend on a Friday. Please drop your child off at the Pre-school door at 11 and return at **2pm** to see Santa give out presents to the children. We will provide a party lunch for the children on this occasion and will liaise with parents before this regarding any dietary restrictions. We would also be very grateful if you are able to contribute a £3 donation towards the cost of the party. Thank you.

I am very sad to say that from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, we will be losing Jemma who has accepted a Teaching Assistant position nearer to home. We will be very sorry to see Jemma go, as she has been an integral member of our team for nearly 3 years. We are currently recruiting to fill Jemma's position and the new member of staff is expected to start from January. If your child currently has Jemma as a key worker, it is highly likely that the new key worker will take over but we will confirm this with you nearer the time. For the 3 weeks from when Jemma leaves until the end of term, staff who already know your child will continue to support them and update their learning journeys.

For those children who are beginning school in September 2020, please remember that you need to register your child for your preferred school before 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. If you have not already done so, you can apply online at:

<https://cwc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/parentportal/>

This will allow you to check online on the 16<sup>th</sup> April to see which school has been allocated to your child.

The remaining term dates for 2018-2019 are as follows:

<b>Term</b>	<b>Pre-school starts</b>	<b>Pre-school breaks up</b>
Autumn second half term	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Spring first half term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
Spring second half term	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April
Summer first half term	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
Summer second half term	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July

Easter Weekend Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 13<sup>nd</sup> April

May day bank holiday – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (not the Monday, as this year it has been altered to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day).

This term we say “Happy Birthday” in October over the half-term holidays to Zayaan (4). In December we say “Happy Birthday” to Millie, Ethan and Charlie who all turn three and to Sam and Penny who turn four. We wish them all a very happy birthday.

I would also like to let you know that your child’s Learning Journey will be sent home in the last week of term, please return these at the beginning of the next term as Staff update them on an ongoing basis.

Please also remember that parking is not permitted in school grounds and to use the adjoining roads, Wheatsheaf carpark or the United Reformed Church car park. This is particularly important now the Junior school has moved into the new build and parking is much reduced temporarily.

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.

Finally, please remember to send your child in with weather appropriate clothing e.g. warm coat, hat, scarf, gloves and wellies as we will be playing outside in all weathers and with our much reduced play area, it is important that the children are able to access the grassed area as much as possible.

Many thanks,

Heather & Staff