



# Farnsfield Pre-School Newsletter

**AUTUMN TERM 2020**

[www.farnsfieldpreschool.org](http://www.farnsfieldpreschool.org)

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## Dates for your diaries

### Inset Days

**To make it easy for as many families as possible to follow, any inset days we have will be the same as St Michaels School Farnsfield**

### Our next Inset day and first day of autumn half term holiday

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October

### Return to pre-school

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> November

### End of Autumn term

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020

### Spring Term Starts

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021

## Babies & Toddlers

Due to Covid 19 our Toddlers Session on a Thursday morning has been suspended till the government guidelines allow it to reopen.

We know how important this group is to so many parents and hope to be open as soon as safely possible. We will inform you as soon as this happens.



We want to say a huge welcome back to all our returning children and hello to all those children who are new to our pre-school family. Despite what has been a challenging time for us all, the children have come back happy, ready to play and make new friends. We missed you all and are happy to be back doing what we love even during the continued "new normal" we are all adjusting to.

A big thank you from the pre-school for everyone complying to our new risk assessment and helping everyone to keep safe. If you have any questions about following our new Covid secure guidelines, then please contact us for clarity.

We will soon be contacting you all with a questionnaire about how you feel the pre-school coped during lockdown. With your feedback we hope to see how we can improve communication with you all in the future.

We also have to say a big thankyou to our local parish council. They generously have given the pre-school a substantial amount of money from their Covid support fund to help us through this difficult time and their continued support is much appreciated.

## Up-coming activities

- **Bonfire Night**
- **Children-in- need**
- **Autumn crafts**
- **Movement to music outdoors only. Weather permitting.**
- **Diwali**
- **Christmas crafts/ Christmas Jumper**

## Christmas cards

Due to last year's success we will again be having your children's designs professionally printed on to Christmas cards. You will receive a sample card to view and order form, to make any purchases, in the coming weeks.

## Introducing you to Sam, our Language Lead at Pre-School.

Sam's role is to ensure each child has the ability and skills to develop language and communication. Sam undertakes regular research into this field and attends local Language network meetings. In addition, she will help the staff to identify and support children's speech and language needs enabling us to provide an environment that supports each individual child. Parents and carers are always welcome to ask Sam about any concerns or information that are relevant to this matter. Sam will utilise a wide range of learning apparatus to create an environment in which children can extend their learning through appropriate activities.



We are excited to let you know about a new way of working the pre-school is adopting over the next few months. This leap into the digital age will hopefully enhance our ability to record and share your child's progress along with reducing paper consumption, which is a move towards less environmental impact.

To do this the pre-school have signed up to an organisation called Tapestry which lets us create a digital learning journal for each child. This journal can be securely accessed by those involved in your child's care and enables us to communicate more easily and efficiently between staff and parents. We hope that this resource can only improve our ability to monitor your child's progress and make sure we are providing tailored support and guidance as needed. You will be able to add your own content to the journal which can give your child's key worker a greater insight into your child's development by seeing them in their home environment as well as at pre-school.

To enjoy this, we have sent out a letter to have your consent to add your child to our system. Once you have returned your letter giving consent you will be contacted on how to look at your child's achievements and share their wow moments from home, via tapestry online. Tapestry is also available as a secure app to make accessing your child's learning journal even easier. We hope you will enjoy using tapestry and find it a valuable resource.

### Little Explorers

"Little explorers" is our early years introduction to our outdoor play and will start again after the October half term for blue group only. Focusing on getting children outdoors and interacting with their natural environment in all weathers in our local area. We hope that you will all get a chance to see these wonderful activities and fun learning opportunities on your child's online learning journal Tapestry and closed Facebook through the coming months.

Lots of excitement has always been generated by this fantastic outdoor activity and we hope for its continued success over this next year. Please look on our website to see more information about this wonderful activity and how you can prepare your child to take part.

### Help our fundraising efforts



We are happy to report that again we have been successful in our application to be one of Co-Op's chosen charities. If you would like to allocate 1% from your membership scheme to Pre-School, please go to the Co-op website and follow the simple instructions. <https://membership.coop.co.uk>



You can now help raise money for Pre-School just by shopping on Amazon.

Please follow this link: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1022276-0>

It does not cost you anything, but everything you spend via this link earns funds for us! The prices are the same and the Amazon service is the same.

## **Reminders and essentials**

### **Winter Weather**

If the weather becomes a problem during the pre-school day or where weather conditions are anticipated to become too hazardous to travel later, parents/carers may be contacted via the emergency contact details and asked to collect their child.

Please remember to dress your child appropriately for the weather.

### **Please can children refrain from coming in with toys and accessories from home.**

This can cause problems in the pre-school as children are understandably very protective of their own toys and the other children love to see new things. By the end of the session, they can become upset if their favoured toy is lost or broken. Comforters and soothers will always be an exception to the rule.

### **Please name all items of clothing and bags that your child may bring into Pre-school.**

Items are easily mixed up or lost so this simple procedure will help us to avoid unnecessary upset.

### **Pre-school branded clothing**

Our new polo shirts and jumpers are now available which will save your child's best clothes.

### **Funding**

A reminder parents who claim additional funding (up to 30 hours) need to confirm their eligibility with the D.W.P. (Department Work Pensions) regularly. More information about funding can be found at [www.childcarechoices.org.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.org.uk)

## **Thank You**

Once again let us give you our biggest thanks for helping your pre-school family through what has been an unprecedented year. The support of parents and the resilience of your children has been second to none and we hope we can all continue to work together safely to deliver the best possible care for your children.