

# Danbury Pre-Schools

Registered Charity no: 1111808

DFES/Ofsted nos: 520349/581607 PSLA membership no. 10584

[www.danburypreschools.org.uk](http://www.danburypreschools.org.uk)



## Newsletter



February 2010

Welcome back to all of you. We hope you all had a lovely half term. We have the Annual General Meeting coming up this term, so please do try to support us. Details below.

### Topics

In line with the EYFS Framework, we are trying a new approach and will not be teaching set topics this term, but instead, we will ensure that there is a balance of child initiated and adult led learning through play and exploration each day. We will extend the learning of your child through his/her interests. For example, if a group of children decide to pretend to be animals, we could set up a vets surgery. If a group of children decide to play fire fighters we would use this as an opportunity to talk about safety, helping people, occupations and so on.

The pm sessions include a 'Show & Tell' time linked to the topic of the week. If any child brings in a topic related item into the morning session we do try to include a show and tell for them.

### Annual General Meeting

This will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm at the URC (Busy Bees) Hall. We update parents on what has been achieved during the year, changes to pre-school and most importantly we vote to re-elect current committee members and new members are nominated and elected. We strongly encourage parents to attend this where possible, and it is usually completed within an hour.

**If we fail to have key committee members in place we are in breach of the law and can be closed down.** We appreciate that it is not possible for all parents to attend the AGM, so this year we are arranging to have paper proxy forms in setting that we encourage ALL parents to complete.

The pre-school is a charity and is run by a group of volunteer parents. Without their help the pre-school would be unable to exist. Please support the Pre-School where you can.

### Diary Dates

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> March – INSET day (Am session only)  
March/April - Family Quiz (Details to follow)  
Tues 18<sup>th</sup> May – Good As New Sale  
Weds 30<sup>th</sup> June - Summer Picnic  
Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Jumble Sale  
Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Annual Family Disco  
Sat 16<sup>th</sup> October - Annual Race Night  
Tues 9<sup>th</sup> November - Good As New Sale

### Inset Days

The next Inset Day is scheduled for Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Please be aware that these sessions will still be charged for as per Pre-school policy. All policies are available to parents at each setting. Inset days are an essential part of the function of the Pre-Schools. They allow for staff training to ensure your child gets the best attention and successful progression during their time with us.

### Fundraising

The annual jumble sale which took place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2010 was a great success, making a profit of £607.24. Well done to our fundraiser Emma Hayes and everyone involved! We would like to thank the following people in particular: Cake makers - Linda Thirkettle, Hannah Moruzzi, Sarah Greenway. Helpers - Linda Thirkettle, Janine Archer, Paula Parker, Charlotte Jones, Sharon Jackson, Debbie Hay, Lisa Rollings, Cheryl Smith, Penny Scott and daughter Hannah. Thanks also to all the ladies at the village hall that organised and ran the jumble/mock auction so efficiently. Thank you to the people who contributed the jumble.

### **The New Danbury Children's Centre 4Children**

We will be working in partnership with the above. They provide fun activities and information for under 5s and their parents/carers. They currently have an office at the LOTA training centre in Well Lane and are there Mon am, Weds pm and Fri am, or at the library Rhyme Time 11am every Thurs, please feel free to call in at any of these times. We should have some regular dates when they will be in setting soon. Contact Paula Burns on 07584 023537 for more details.

### **Donating Items to the Pre-Schools**

To help keep costs down, we have been asking parents to contribute some much needed items to the Pre-Schools where possible. Many thanks to those people who have contributed items already. Thanks to your generosity we now have plenty of bottom wipes and will not need any more for some time!

Items still required include the following:

- A4 Printer Paper
- Card (white or coloured)
- Tissue Paper
- Biro's / Chunky Chalks / Chunky Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- Bottles of Paint
- Child Safe Sand (fine)
- Kitchen Roll / Anti-bacterial spray / Baby Wipes (unscented)
- Any arts and crafts too good to throw away!!

If you can spare any of these items, please give them to your supervisor.

### **Upset Tummies and Sickness**

Do not send a sick child into pre-school. Please allow at least 48 hours since the last tummy upset before you send your child back to pre-school. It is unfair on staff and other children, and your own child who will need your comfort at home to recover completely.

### **Holidays and Absence Notification**

Please also let us know as soon as possible about absence due to illness and holidays.

### **Appropriate Clothing/Footwear**

Please ensure that your child has a coat, jumper, wellies, plimsolls, sun hat, sun screen (depending on the weather), to allow your child to be able to play outside.

### **Naming of Clothes and Belongings**

May we remind parents/guardians that children's clothing, bags, plimsolls, shoes etc must be named.

### **Changes in Circumstances**

For your child's benefit, we would like to know about any other changes in circumstances at home, for example; new births, parents separating, a new pet, family death, moving house. These things all effect the children and we may be able to support them and discreetly help them deal with their feelings during their sessions at pre-school.

### **Request for Parent/Carer/Grandparent Help**

Have you got an hour or two you could spare to help out at Pre-School? You don't have to commit to a full session, any help would be gratefully received. Grandparents are welcome, and (space permitting), so are mums with younger children, although children must be over two years of age for insurance purposes. Please see your supervisor.

### **Do You Shop Online?**

You can shop for less and support us by visiting [www.buy.at/danburypreschools](http://www.buy.at/danburypreschools). This is a shopping portal that links to 100s of popular online shops including M&S, Tesco, Mothercare, Early Learning Centre, John Lewis, Play.com, cdwow!, Waterstones and Amazon.

If you complete an order via one of these shops through the link above, a commission of between 2% and 12% is paid to Danbury Pre-schools. It really is worthwhile.

### **Pre School Spaces**

Although several sessions are now fully subscribed, we do have a limited number of spaces available at both settings. Please contact our administrator if you would like to increase your days.

### **Pay and Play Sessions**

We still offer 'pay and play' sessions'. This means, if we have space, you can always book an occasional session and pay on the day. Please be aware that if you are running late to a session and haven't informed the setting by 9.30 am that you will be attending, it is possible that your child's space could be let out as a pay and play.

### **Do you know how your child is progressing at Pre-School?**

We encourage you to book a consultation with your child's key worker to discuss your child. Your key worker will be able to liaise with you to find a mutually appropriate time. You are also welcome to view your child's files at any time.

### **Contact Numbers**

Please inform us of any changes in contact numbers so that we can contact you in an emergency.

