

# Danbury Pre-Schools

Registered Charity no: 1111808

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



## Newsletter

January 2009

Hello and welcome back. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. We have another busy term ahead. Please note that due to funding restrictions we are **altering the current term dates**. Please see 'Diary Dates' below. Due to this change, parents with funded children have been potentially overcharged for this term. Relevant deductions will be made from the Summer term bills. If you have a child who leaves for school at Easter you will be refunded in cash over the next few weeks. We are sorry for any inconvenience this will cause. If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact our administrator Charlotte Jones on 0845 643 0076 (office hours).

### TOPICS – Nursery Rhymes

5<sup>th</sup> January - Humpty Dumpty

12<sup>th</sup> January - Baa Baa Black Sheep

19<sup>th</sup> January - Incy Wincy Spider

26<sup>th</sup> January - Chinese New Year week (Year of the Ox)

2<sup>nd</sup> February - Hickory Dickory Dock

9<sup>th</sup> February - There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.

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.

### DIARY DATES/TERM DATE ALTERATIONS 2009

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 – **INSET day**

**Friday Feb 13<sup>th</sup> - Last day of Half Term**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Return to Pre-School**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Last day of Spring Term**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Next Term

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009 – **INSET day**

#### Inset Days

The next Inset Day is scheduled for Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup>. 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.

#### Coffee Morning on Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup>

This will be held at Busy Bees (9.30am-11am) for parents and children of both settings. Come along to play with the toys have a cup of tea/coffee, a biscuit and a chat. Donations welcome.

#### Annual General Meeting

The Pre-school will be holding its Annual General Meeting March. Date to be advised. This is a very important meeting which directly affects the running and continued success of the Pre-school. We ask that as many parents as possible attend. We need parental support, as parents we are all 'shareholders' in the business. We are looking out for volunteers to help out/organise on fundraising. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

#### NVQ Training

If you are interested in partaking in NVQ 2 we have access to potentially free training. Please speak to Charlotte Jones on the number below.



### Accreditation Congratulations!

Busy Bees have been awarded Accreditation from the Pre-School Learning Alliance. We are delighted with this news and congratulate Lisa, the staff and helpers at Busy Bees for their hard work, professionalism and commitment.

We are ONE of only four Pre-Schools in Essex to have received this prestigious award.

Both Busy Bees and First Friends now have this award. It is an award of excellence in childcare and education across the age range 2 to 5 years. Accreditation is a guarantee of good practice - and ensures that we provide the very highest standards of education and care for the children.



## **Pm Sessions**

These take place on Monday afternoons and Thursday afternoons at Busy Bees. PE and Lunch Club activities at the two sessions are alternated each half term.

Thursdays up to February half term: PE. Children will need to bring in a named P.E. kit, which should consist of shorts, t-shirt and suitable footwear e.g. plimsolls, in a named bag. The P.E. kit does not have to be of any particular colour or style. P.E. lessons will encourage independence and self-care, team games, health & exercise and get the children used to changing clothes, which all helps to prepare them for school.

Mondays up to February half term: Lunch club. Children should bring a healthy lunch. Please do not include sweets, fizzy drinks or anything that contains nuts/ peanut butter, this is very important as we have children attending who suffer from nut allergies.

Pm sessions are open to children of both First Friends and Busy Bees. If you would like your child to attend a Pm session, please speak to Charlotte Jones.

## **Lunch Clubs**

The Lunch Clubs run on a Tuesday and Friday from 12.15pm to 12.45pm. There is no age limit for children wishing to attend. Please speak to your supervisor for further information.

The children really enjoy taking part in having lunch away from home and see it as special. It provides an opportunity to share a meal and conversation with their friends. The children bring a packed lunch from home and experience eating in a different environment from home, helping prepare them for lunch at school.

When preparing your child's lunch it's important that it is healthy & contains a good mixture of different foods. Please do not include sweets, fizzy drinks or anything that contains nuts/ peanut butter, this is very important as we have children attending who suffer from nut allergies. Please ensure their lunch bag/box and any containers you want returned is clearly named to avoid confusion.

## **Pay & Play Sessions**

The Pre-school runs a Pay & Play policy for free spaces. We sometimes have spaces due to sickness or holiday absences. You may feel that you would like to increase your child's sessions, but unsure how they'll cope with an additional session, then give it a try one week with a Pay & Play session. Please call your setting on the day in question as there may well be space.

## **Fundraising**

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, cdown!, 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.

Many thanks to all parents who have supported us by remembering to use this portal and keep on shopping!

We also raise money via the Co-Operative Community Card scheme. If you regularly shop at Co-op and do not have a card, please speak to your supervisor and start earning as you shop.

Our annual Jumble Sale was held at the village hall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Amount raised to be advised. Many thanks to all our parents who helped out on the day. It was great to see some new faces turn out to support us.

We'd like to say a big thank you to all our parents, friends and relatives who came along to the Nativity and Mince Pie mornings and supported the Pre-school by buying the hamper raffle tickets. First Friends raised £125 and Busy Bees raised £75. The money will be spent on resources for the Pre-Schools in the New Year.

Again we'd like to thank everyone who helps to support us by buying books from The Bookman. We earn commission while you shop and it's a great way of saving delivery charges as it gets delivered to Pre-school.

## **Pre-school Absences**

Please telephone your Pre-school on the numbers below at the start of a session if your child will be absent due to sickness or advise your supervisor in advance for holiday absences.

If you have any other enquires they should be directed to our administrator on the number below during usual office hours.

We also require relief staff to help cover when we have a shortage of staff due to sickness. If you have an interest in child care and would be available at short notice, please make yourself known to your supervisor.



## **Thank You**

A very big Thank You from all the staff to all our parents for their kindness and generosity with Christmas gifts and good wishes at the end of last term. It was much appreciated by all!

