

Danbury Pre-Schools

Registered Charity no: 1111808

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www.danburypreschools.org.uk

Newsletter

November 2009

Welcome back to all of you. We hope you all had a lovely half term and enjoyed the fireworks over the weekend.

Topics (Dates are approximate)

- 2nd November - Fireworks
- 9th November - Autumn
- 16th November - Winter
- 23rd November - Spring
- 30th November - Summer
- 7 December - Christmas
- 14 December - Christmas

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.

Good As New Sale (Tues Nov 10th 2009)

10.30am-12pm at Danbury Sports and Social Centre in the Sports Hall (Entrance £1 per adult)

- Items to be sold must be brought to the hall on the day between 9 - 9.45am.
- We will accept children's toys, books, videos, DVDs, children's clothes (0-7yrs, baby equipment and maternity wear in clean, complete and very good condition.
- Only one bag of winter clothes **on hangers** per household please. Unlimited toys, books etc can be offered for sale. Please package items carefully as we are unable to compensate for items that become separated.
- Please use labels of reasonable size with readable writing on books/ boxes etc, and one inch square labels pinned to clothing. Include your name and the price of the item.
- Danbury Pre-Schools will charge 25% commission on all items sold.

Christmas Canvases

The children will be making Christmas canvases at Pre-School as Christmas presents. If you would like one, please send in £5 with your child to ensure he/she gets one.

Diary Dates

- Tuesday 10th November** – Good As New Sale
- Wednesday 11th November** – **INSET day**
- Wednesday 16th December** - Christmas Mince Pies at Busy Bees, Nativity at First Friends.
- Friday 18th December** - Christmas Party at both settings and the last day of term.

Provisional Dates for Next Term:

- 4th January 2010 – 1st April 2010
- Week beginning 15th February - Half Term

Pre-School Spaces

We currently have some availability at both pre-schools for January.

Both afternoon sessions have spaces. First Friends also has spaces on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Busy Bees has spaces on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We have had so many children leaving us this academic year we have done really well to keep maintaining a high level of occupancy but we continue to need your support as a parent led, local charity.

Staff Training

Congratulations to Aimee Burgess, a parent helper, who has completed her NVQ2 in childcare at Busy Bees and will be staying with us as relief staff and in hopes of training further. Sarah Jane and Jackie at First Friends have started their NVQ3 qualifications alongside relief staff Debbie Hay and Mel Osborne. Supervisor Lisa Rollings has been working really hard this year and has nearly completed her NVQ4.

Our staff continue to train to a really high standard and as a pre-school we really value their experience.



Annual Race Night

This was held on Saturday 17th October 2009 and was a huge success. Everyone had a great time and so far we have raised over £900! We would like to thank Emma Hayes for organising such a lucrative and enjoyable evening, and of course all those who contributed their time/finances and efforts to make it possible. We will be running this event next year and look forward to more people coming along raising funds for the Danbury Pre-schools.

We would like to thank the local companies who sponsored our races, in particular:

- LB Swim School (Race 1)
- Ironsmart of Danbury (Race 2)
- Hills Cleaning Services (Race 3)
- Sandy Calvert Photography (Race 4)
- ChemDry (Race 5)
- PSG Design and Print (Race 6)
- Evolve Design and Digital Media (Race 8)

Local companies also donated prizes for the winning horse owners of each race and we would like to thank:

- The Griffin (Danbury) (two prizes)
- The Bakers Arms (Danbury)
- Additions Hairdressers (Danbury)
- The Retreat (Little Baddow)
- Izumi Restaurant (Maldon)
- Hoyzen Restaurant (East Hanningfield)
- Chocoholics

Attention all Christmas Shoppers!!

Shop for less and support us by visiting 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, Amazon, Ikea, Goldsmiths, Thorntons and Pizza Hut. There are new shops on there every week. You do not have to register any details on this site, it is merely a portal to the shops that pay us commission on any sales made. Please support us and use it when you can.

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.

Arrival and Collection of Children at Pre-School

We would like to ask all parents to please do their best to drop off and collect children on time. It really helps the staff run the sessions more efficiently if the children all arrive together. We also only have a small amount of time to vacate both premises at the end of sessions so prompt collection is essential.

Visit By The Mobile Library

The mobile library visited First Friends recently and all the children attending that day had the opportunity to use it, meet Ron the driver and have some stories. The mobile library will be visiting Busy Bees on Monday the 9th of November.

Some lucky First Friends children also got to visit Danbury Library recently, as we have been looking at the importance of stories and how to care for books over the last few weeks. The winner of the First Friends story sack competition will be announced shortly. Thank you to all those parents and children who created some really good sacks! It will really be a challenge to decide on a winner!

Christmas Information Letter

We would like to ask all parents/guardians to please ensure that you read the Christmas information letter that has been sent out. We need your confirmation slips and payment back by the end of session on the 16th of November if you require a Christmas Canvas and if your child is attending the Christmas party on the 18th of December and does not normally attend on a Friday.

We also need a couple of willing volunteers at each setting to help with the Busy Bees mince pie morning and First Friends Nativity on the 16th of December. Every year at these events we hold a raffle, with the money raised going directly to each setting to buy new puzzles, craft equipment and other resources. Please donate as generously as you are able.

Funding

The government and local authority is changing the way it allocates funding. Every child is currently entitled to 12.5 hours of funding per week during term time; the term after they turn three until they start school. Until now this has been allocated in blocks called 'sessions' that are 2.5 hours in length. The system will become more flexible from next term allowing parents to claim hours not sessions. This will allow those who do not currently use their full allowance of 12.5 hours but do extended sessions, to potentially reduce their fees bills altogether. There is a 3 day minimum rule however that only allows you to be flexible if childcare spans 3 days or more. Please bear this in mind when thinking about your sessions for next year. This is also subject to change as this is an initiative that is being rolled out whilst it is being developed.

Appropriate Clothing

The cold weather has arrived, so please ensure that your child has warm clothing to enable him/her to play outside.

