



**Meppershall Pre-School Newsletter**  
**September 2016**

**Welcome back!**

Welcome back after the summer break, and we would like to extend a special warm welcome to Amber, William, Jake, Lois, Nellie, Otis, Finley and their families who have all recently joined us and are settling in well.

**Thank you**

Thank you so much to everyone who gave us presents and cards at the end of last term, we really did appreciate your generosity as well as all your kind words. Thank you also for your support with buying snack items, washing tea towels and dressing up clothes! It all helps us to run smoothly! If you would like to add your name onto our snack rota to buy the snack one week (you are reimbursed for it!) please speak to a member of staff. Please also let us know if you can help with washing tea towels etc..

**Pre School Staff & Committee**

I'm sure most of you are familiar with the Pre school staff team by now but for those of you who don't see all of us please have a look at the staff board in the corridor and flip up the photos to see each person's roles and responsibilities. If you haven't met everybody yet, please don't be afraid to come and say hello! We have an open door policy so if you have any queries or concerns they can be addressed to any member of staff as well as to Tamsin or Andrea, and they will be happy to help. If your query is regarding your child's progress/development please speak to your child's key person in the first instance. You will all have been informed of who your child's key person is, but if you are unsure please do not hesitate to ask.

We are supporting 2 students with their childcare training this term, who are volunteering with us so please familiarise yourself with their faces as I'm sure the children will start to mention them as well as they get to know them better.

Our students this term are;



Sara Brinkley – studying for her CACHE Level 3 qualification, and



Kayleigh Hadley who is studying for her CACHE Level 2.

Our students are DBS cleared through the Pre School, as are all staff as they will be required to carry out play activities with the children as part of their ongoing assessments.

## Topic



We started the term with our topic as 'Where we Live'. We now have many children from Meppershall, as well as from several surrounding villages. We are trying to teach children to notice what is around them, talk about their houses and how they are the same and/or different to others. We will look at what places of interest are around us, as well as looking at shapes and numbers on houses and looking at print and numbers in our environment, road signs etc..

We would be grateful if all children could bring in a photograph of their house to show the group. The pictures may be put onto our display board, or into their books so please don't send in a photo you want returned – please also ensure it is named! During the term we will incorporate local walks to the bakers, the shop, the allotment and the park and more dependent on helpers available! Please put your name down if you are able to help when dates are decided for these visits – a list will be put out in due course.



Since returning to Pre School we have many children showing an interest in 'Paw Patrol' and as our planning is based upon children's interests, we are of course embracing this. Therefore from the week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> September our topic will be 'Paw Patrol' (..If you can't beat them, join them!) When children are motivated by something, they are more open to learning and that's what we want to ensure each child reaches their full potential.

Hopefully this will ensure children engage in planned activities as well as their self-initiated play and we can meet their next steps through this theme. If you have any Paw Patrol books that we could share with the children or any other resources we could borrow for a short time, or that children would like to show, please name them and send in with your child. We will look after them!



We will also incorporate Autumn and Harvest into our planning, and hope to be able to collect some goodies to make up harvest boxes to take to Meppershall Care Home, with the children – we will let you know when this is planned.

You will continue to receive your weekly 'update' in your child's tray which lets you know what's happening that week, reminds you of the sound of the week etc, so that you can talk about these things with your child.

## Lift Off to Language Sessions



Tamsin and Andrea both attended training run by the Speech & Language Service prior to the summer holidays to be able to deliver 'Lift off to Language' sessions to the children. The sessions will be delivered to small groups of children in 6 week blocks and the progress of each child taking part will be monitored. If your child is selected to take part in the first six weeks of sessions you will receive a letter asking for your consent. If you have any queries at any time please speak to Andrea or Tamsin. **Please note that selecting your child for the groups does not mean we have concerns about their development.**

The sessions are not just designed to promote children's language development but also to develop a wide range of Communication & Language skills, including attention & listening skills, confidence levels and the ability to interact with their peers and to follow simple instructions.

## Sound of The week



This week we started our 'sound of the week' again with 'Aa' and will work through the alphabet until we reach 'Zz'. Once we have got to Zz ( in the summer term) we will be learning about rhyming words and singing nursery rhymes with the children. From after the May half term the school leavers will revisit some of the sounds in the same order as which they learn them in school (starting with S, A, T, P) You will be notified of the order before then so please don't worry!

If your child wants to bring something in for the Sound of the week please ensure it is named where possible and put on the sound of the week table with 'Sammy Sound' so things don't get lost. Please also let us know what they have brought in.

## Sickness & Absence

Please ring or text Pre School by 9.30am if your child is going to absent, giving a reason for absence. If we have not heard from you by 10am, it is our policy to call you to find out why your child is not in.

**Please remember that if your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea then they must stay off for 48 hours after the last 'attack'**

## Be Prepared!



Please ensure your child always has a sun hat with them and that they **arrive with sun cream already applied** when the weather is hot. Please also send a bottle of sun cream to keep at Pre School, clearly labelled with your child's name if we don't have one already. We will reapply as necessary but it can take us up to 30 minutes to apply sun cream which limits time we can be doing other activities with the children. **It is your responsibility to let us know if your child does NOT have sun cream on when arriving at Pre School.**

I'm sure this sunny weather won't last for long so as it starts to change please ensure they bring clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather. The hall does get very warm when it is warm, but can be cold when weather changes so please ensure they have some layers if need be in their bags.



Children will need wellies when raining, and also when we visit the allotment. If we are planning a visit we will of course let you know, but visits are dependent on helpers and weather!

Please clearly name all clothing, bags, wellies and lunchboxes, as well as small tubs and drink bottles they may also have with them at lunchtimes. Remember, fresh drinking water is available for children

at all times, so they do not need to bring a drink to Pre School unless they want something else with their lunch, we also provide spoons.



Please do not bring your child in clothes that you do not want to get dirty; activities are free for the children to choose so we cannot promise they will stay clean!!! Please ensure they always have a change of clothes available as even if not needed for toileting reasons they can get wet, painty or muddy at various activities. If you would like to order any uniform please see Tamsin, it is priced at £7 for a polo shirt and £10 for a sweatshirt.

## Emergency contacts and children's details

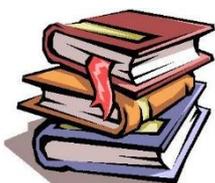


Please remember to keep us informed if phone numbers and/or email addresses change. Also, if you will not be available to contact on a particular day whilst we have your child at preschool please ensure we have an alternative contact number.

Please notify us of any changes to your child's health and wellbeing and anything that may affect your child at pre-school.

**Please also note our new email address is [meppershallps@gmail.com](mailto:meppershallps@gmail.com) Please use this email For non-urgent queries or our mobile number 07816 357159 to contact us during session times**

## Pre School Library



We will be getting our lending library out again from next week (19<sup>th</sup> September) so that your child can borrow a book to share with you at home. Home learning and reading with children at home has great benefits for communication and language skills in young children and we would like to encourage this. Children can choose a book from the library box, have it stamped and written in a book before taking it home. Please make sure you look after the books and let us know when you have

returned it so it can be signed back in.

### **Fudge the Bear**



Fudge our Pre School Bear will be starting to go home with children again this week. He goes home with each child in turn with a diary for you to record what he has been upto, with some pictures if possible! This is again to strengthen links between pre school and home, giving children a chance to bring him abck and talk about what they have been up to together. Please don't feel like you have to go somewhere special if your child has Fudge..even just having tea together and watching their favourite programme or playing in the garden gives them something to talk about.

### **Facebook**



Please have a look at our 'new' Facebook group page & like it so see updates & information as it is added <https://www.facebook.com/Meppershallps/?fref=ts> Please like this page rather than our 'older' page as we will be stopping using the other one sometime soon. Please encourage friends and family to also like and share our page!

### **Website**

We are very pleased that our much anticipated new website will be going live very soon – you will receive an email with details as soon as it happens so please take a few minutes to have a look once you receive the email. It will be much more parent friendly and newsletters etc will be added to the site for your reference, as well as photos of events and dates.

### **Pre School Committee**

Our Pre School Committee have done a fantastic job over the last few years by organising a wide variety of fundraising events which have ensured we have been able to purchase resources and provide valuable experiences for our children. They have more ideas for this academic year (some detailed in diary dates below) but could do with a few extra helpers! If you have some spare time and would be interested in joining the committee, either just to help on the fundraising side, or to help on the management team, please let a member of staff know and we will put you in touch with either our chair or a committee member for more information!

### **Change of Opening Hours**

Thank you for all responses to our questionnaire sent out last term. Unfortunately we did not get enough takers to enable us to open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from this term but we will be opening them up from January 2017. Please let Tamsin know as soon as possible, what sessions you will be requiring in January, or for the summer term. The numbers pick up very quickly, and some sessions next year only have limited spaces available already.

We are advertising for qualified relief staff at the moment as we lost Sarah at the end of last term, due to her moving house. For more details of the vacancy please see <http://www.centralbedfordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/cbct> or speak to Tamsin.

### **And finally.....**

## Diary Dates

<b>Saturday 17 – 24 September</b>	<b>Meppershall Scarecrow Festival</b> – Maps available from the Bakers for £2 to show where all scarecrows are. Why not have a wander around the village with your family...there are some great scarecrows to see! Our 'Mrs Digger' scarecrow has been entered into the competition.
<b>Sunday 18 September</b>	<b>'Gift Day' at St Marys Church, Meppershall, 1 – 4pm -</b> Come along with the family for some Teddy Bear abseiling, glitter tattoos, cakes & refreshments and children's activities.
<b>Week commencing 3 October</b>	<b>Sponsored Find</b> – Sponsor forms will be sent out with the children during this week. It will have a 'Where we live' theme, and forms will be due back before October half term.
<b>Week Commencing 17 October</b>	<b>Consultation Week</b> – A chance to meet with your child's key person. You will be able to sign up for an appointment from 10 <sup>th</sup> October, when progress books will also be sent home – to bring back with you to your appointment.
<b>Wednesday 19 October</b>	<b>Black &amp; Orange Fun Day - in aid of Crackerjacks Childrens Charity (£1 donation to wear back &amp; orange to pre school)</b>
<b>Monday 24 – Friday 28 October</b>	<b>HALF TERM WEEK – NO PRE SCHOOL</b>
<b>Monday 31 October</b>	<b>Inset Day – No Pre School</b>
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Bonfire Night Event (behind village hall)</b>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Pre School Nativity Performance (all children to take part) 10.30 am with refreshments after (to be confirmed – details to follow)</b>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Last day of term &amp; Children's Christmas Party – all children invited from 1-3pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 17</b>	<b>Back to school</b>

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Details on various events and activities will be sent out to you as and as soon as we have these available!

Pre –School Staff