



St Mary's Pre-School

Newsletter May 2010

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to pre-School and at last we have seen some sun.

We would like to extend a special welcome to Mylo Boxall and Romilly Grove, who have joined us this term. We hope you will enjoy your time with us. New parents/ carers should have received a 'Welcome Letter' which details various routines, opening times and useful information for the pre-school. If not, please let a member of staff know.

The **TERM DATES** for this academic year are:

Summer:	19 th Apr - 16 th July
Half Term	31 st May - 4 th June

During this term we will be encouraging the children to use the outdoor equipment so please bring sun hats (named) for your children to wear and please can you apply sun lotion prior to arriving, although you may also have it in their bag.

FUNDRAISING as you are all aware is very important to the pre-school and we would like to thank everyone that gets involved in organising events and donating items. On 19th March we had our annual Quiz night and I would like to thank the staff and Nicky for organising and to Jamie and Mark for being the quiz master., During the Easter holidays we ran the Easter Egg Hunt and would like to thank, Caroline, Paul, Nicky and Maz for setting up and also to Maz's mum for donating the hot cross buns and making the refreshments.

Forth coming fundraising events for May, we will be selling cakes from one of the barrows in St Martins Walk, the date for the is Friday 28th May, paper plates with details will be going out in baskets the week before and a rota for helpers will be going up this week, a minimum of two people is required at one time for half hour slots any more per slot would be great as it shows the pre-school has great support by parents.

On 12th June we have a fundraiser/awareness pitch at the Bear Green Fun Day providing children's lucky dip, lolly pop game and face painting. For this event we are looking for donations for the lucky dip, from pencils, playing cards, toy cars, hair accessories, books, bubbles, unwanted children's gift etc, We would also like any face painting volunteers, more the better.

on 17th July we run the annual ice cream stall at the VPA. More details of this to follow

Sainsbury and Tesco voucher - please collect and save for St Mary's Pre-school. Both Sainsbury and Tesco have some really good items on offer so the more we can collect the more equipment we can get for the children. Last day for Tesco vouchers is: 8th May and Sainsbury's voucher is: 15th May. We would also like you to bring in any **old ink cartridges**, we can send them offer and in return we get Sainsbury and Tesco vouchers.

LUNCH CLUB - as the better weather is finally here please remember to place an ice pack into the lunch boxes to keep the food fresh.

SPARE CLOTHES - as the better weather is finally here we are encouraging the children to play outside and for activities such as water play which is always on offer, please can you make sure you provide your child with spare clothes, an old t-shirt, bottom and socks.

FLIP FLOPS- please can children not come into preschool wearing flip flops as this can potentially cause accidents as they struggle with using the blocks, climbing equipment and slides etc.

PARENT ROTA - The sign up sheet has changed location to the name board as you come in.

This is a vital part to the pre-school and a parent helper is needed especially on the morning session, if you do sign up and then realise you have double booked please make the staff aware of this allowing them time to find another parent helper. if you are unable to help please talk to the staff/Maz as there is always jobs that can be done at home in an evening. Any help really does make a difference, from cutting up labels to preparing the snacks.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Our Open Afternoon - Tuesday 15th June, this is mainly for parents and children looking to start in September 2010, we are sending leaflets out to local play groups, school, NCT magazine etc and one of the best forms of advertising is word of mouth, so if you know of anyone with an 18 month - 2 year old toddler please recommend St Marys pre-school.

Sports Day - Tuesday 29th June (weather permitting), all welcome even if your child does not attend. More details to follow.

School Trip - Tuesday 6th July - All welcome to a trip to Bocketts Farm, £10 per one adult and one child - more details to follow.

AGM - Wednesday 23rd June at the pre-school 7pm to start to 7.30pm. This will be a great evening. I will be giving a brief overview of this academic year with highlights some of the moments and to what is in store for next year. The treasure will stay a few words and the staff will be giving a brief talk as well. The children will be working on some painting with a theme of 'The Farm'. All the pictures will be on display at the AGM and split into two categories 2-3 years and 3-4 years, each category will win a prize for the best picture and the prize will be **FREE SCHOOL TRIP TO BOCKETTS FARM**. Not only will you get a chance to look at the children's work but all the equipment and toys will be out for you to use and play with if you so wish. Tea, coffee, wine and nibbles will also be available.

HOLIDAYS season is coming up, so if you have a holiday booked for any time before the end of July please let the staff know.

SIBLINGS - if you are thinking of having a sibling start in September please do put their name down on the waiting list as we are currently quite full.

PRE-SCHOOL TOPS are available for purchase, T-Shirts £5 and sweatshirts £8, please ask Cathy for details.

Many thanks

Vicky Claxson
Chairperson