

April 2019 Newsletter

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www.beetley-preschool.org

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Dates to remember

Family Activity Morning
Thursday 4th April 2019

Last day of Spring Term
Friday 5th April 2019

First Day of Summer Term
Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Duck Race
Sunday 28th April 2019

Child & Family Photographs
Saturday 11th May 2019

Summer half term
27th – 31st May 2019

Return from half term
Monday 3rd June 2019

Last day Term
Friday 19th July 2019

Graduation Party
Monday 22nd July 2019

First Day of New School Year
Wednesday 4th September 2019

What are we up to.....

What a busy half term we have had!! The children have written, walked and posted a letter home, made and eaten pancakes, made flower pot chocolate brownies for a special someone and a few have suffered chicken pox ☹. We hope you all have a lovely Easter break, where everyone can rest and come back fighting fit for the summer term.

For next term please could you start saving 1 or 2 pint milk cartons for our annual planting activity, Thank you.



Family Activity Morning

Hopefully by now you have all booked in for the activity morning on Thursday 4th April for some fun Easter activities. See you there!

Fees

To be able to meet the 5% rise in the National Living Wage taking effect from 1st April, we will be making a small increase in the fees we charge taking effect from the beginning of the summer term. 2-3 club will increase to £3.50 per hour, preschool sessions will increase to £3.20 per hour.

Illness

Please help us to reduce the spread of coughs, colds and sickness.

At the end of last half term a lot of children were ill with various things. To try and stop others getting ill can we please remind you, if your child appears unwell before they come to preschool; you have given them Calpol; they have a green runny nose or they have been sick in the last 48 hours, they are not well enough to attend. Please keep them at home until they are better to avoid giving the illness to other children and staff. This is important because if many staff members fall ill at the same time it could lead to temporary closure whilst they recover. Thank you for your understanding.

If your child/children are going to be off could you please let us know either by ringing the Preschool on 01362 860860 or by email beetleypreschool@hotmail.com.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return their questionnaires. Generally it sounds like you are very happy with the way things are done which is lovely to hear, but there are some areas in which we could make changes to improve our practice.

- **Larger premises:** Obviously, the committee and staff have identified that we have outgrown our current premises and this is being addressed under our **New Build** project, so watch this space.
- **More Yoga:** We have started to do yoga with the children because of the health and well being benefits it gives. We will look to include it on a more regular basis.
- **The App:** Most of you seem pleased with the **Our Schools App**. However the app does have its own limitations and therefore will only notify you of an up coming event when it's first posted by us and then once again the day before as a reminder. Unfortunately it does not continually remind you. Events are also posted on our **Facebook page**, on the **Newsletters** and on the **website**.
- **Your child's observations on Tapestry:** All staff are given tracking time within the week to assess each observation and post it for you to see. Sometimes we know this does not happen, due to staff being away from work, and we apologise for this. We will look at ways this can be improved but if you feel you don't see enough of what your child gets up to please speak to Di or Emma.
- **Family Activity Sessions:** We are really pleased that you all enjoy them but we do know they can be very busy. We try to alter the days that they are held on so that more of you have the opportunity to attend. We will review how well the next one goes and make changes accordingly.
- **Daily reports:** We have been asked to look at a way of letting you know what your child has done each day as they don't always tell you themselves. As I'm sure you will appreciate this would be very time consuming to complete everyday for 24 children and a general comment that today the children did a particular activity might not be relevant to all children as they choose their own activities. However we will look to see if there is a way this could be achieved.
- **Picking up time:** We are aware that picking up time can be very busy and are sorry if some of you feel we are not taking time to talk to you at this point. Our aim is to look at our practice in the area and see how we can make changes to improve this.

Thank you again for your comments, they are very welcome good or bad, but please feel free

to speak to us at any time of any concerns you have, don't wait for a questionnaire.

School Dinners

If you would like a hot school dinner for your child, we can order it from the school at a cost of £2.30., a copy of the menu is in preschool.

You will need to order the dinner the day before either by letting us know or informing the school office.

Payment must be received in advance to secure the dinner. A menu is available in preschool.

Payments

Payments can be made by cash, cheque or BACS payment. For cash and cheque payments, please continue to put them in named envelopes as it really is a big help to us in the mornings. A supply of small brown envelopes are in the foyer should you need them. You can also set up an account on the Government website to support you with your fees, they will contribute 20p for every pound you have to pay.

Stay & Play sessions

The last Stay and Play sessions this half term is on Thursday 4th April at the Village Hall. All sessions are open to anyone who has a child/children aged 0 - 5 years and run from 9.30am to 11am, and are open to anyone who has a child/children aged 0 - 5 years and run from 9.30am to 11am, and normally cost £2.50 per family of up to two children, any additional children at 50p.

Come and join us.

Sessions will resume again after Easter on **Thursday 25th April**.

Parent volunteer list

On the wall of the foyer we have a parent volunteer list if you would like to come and offer your services to join us for a few hours in the morning or afternoon one day. It's a great opportunity for you to see what goes on at preschool on a typical day and for you to join your child in their play. It's also an extra pair of hands for us which is always welcome or even share with the children something you enjoy doing, baking, reading stories or some form of craft. If you feel it's something you would like to do pick a day, add your name to the sheet and let Di or Emma know.

Dogs

Please note the school does not allow dogs on their school grounds. If you bring them with you to collect your child can you please tie them to the hooks on the clock in the middle of the green in the horseshoe.

Thank you for your understanding.

things you can do at home with your children and links to useful websites

Fundraising

Online shopping

If you shop on line why not use the opportunity to help raise money for the preschool.

Follow the links below to register your support, a percentage of what you spend is donated to preschool. www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

www.giveasyoulive.com/join/beetleypreschool

www.smile.amazon.co.uk. (when using Amazon Smile please search for "Beetley and District Preschool") Thank you.

Afternoon Tea

Thank you to all everyone who came along on Saturday to support our afternoon tea event, we hope you had a lovely time and will come again next year. You helped us to raise another **£392.00** towards our new building.



100 club

The winners of the April 100 club draw are:

1st Prize – No.37 - C Andrews

2nd Prize – No. 1 – V McIntyre

3rd Prize – No. 8 – P Brown

If you would like to join and have a chance to win, please ask a member of staff.

Bungee Jump!!



Julie East has very bravely volunteered to do a bungee jump to raise money for the Preschool New Build Project. The jump will take place on Saturday 18th May in Cambridge and we want to be able to raise as much money as possible for our project and to show our support to Julie. Sponsorship forms are available in the preschool. Please ask a member of staff or visit her 'just giving' page at http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/juile-east-mps?utm_term+NGzgd28zr

Facebook

We do have a Facebook page, so please look us up and like our page. We will use the page to share information on what we are doing, suggestions for

Child & Family Portraits

by

Terri Brice Photography

Come along on

Saturday 11th May 2019

and have photos of your
Child & Families taken

Slots available from 9.30am until 12.30pm

Slots must be booked in advance with the preschool

01362 860860 or

beetleypreschool@hotmail.com



Minimum number of slots booked is required by the preschool, event may be cancelled if this is not reached

Collection Password

Please remember, if you need your child to be collected by someone new, this could be due to some unforeseen circumstance, an emergency or may just be a new person you have added to your list of eligible people, you will be required to obtain a password from the staff. The new person collecting will need to know this password before we can release your child into their care. This password will change on a regular basis.

NO NUTS

We would like to remind you that we have a NO NUT policy in place. Can you please make sure when you are packing your child's lunch box that none of the food contains nuts.

Thank you for your support.

Website

Take a look at our website www.beetley-preschool.org. Our aim is to update it half termly with photos and posts showing what we've been up to.

avoid giving the illness to other children. Thank you.



OurSchoolsApp

If you haven't downloaded it yet, what are you waiting for? Download onto your smart phone or tablet to access lots of Preschool information including newsletters, the website, Tapestry, Term Dates, Policies and lots more, all from the one place. The app is free to download you just need to search for OurSchoolsApp in the app store. Once downloaded you will need to search for the preschool entering either "Beetley & District Pre-school" or Postcode NR20 4BW when prompted. We are hoping that this app and our Facebook page will be the way we will inform you if the preschool has to close for any unforeseen emergency like adverse weather conditions. So please could you download the app and if you are unable to please speak to Di or Emma. Thank you.

Teddy Bears

Do you have a large collection of soft toys that you feel you need to sort out and find new homes for? If so we would love to help you. We are looking to collect teddies in good condition to use as prizes over the summer at fundraising events we will be attending.



Teddies can be dropped at preschool and staff will make sure they go to the committee.

Thank you for your support and help.

Important Parking

If you are bringing in your child before 9am and picking up any time from 3.15pm – 3.30pm you could **park in the car park along Fakenham road** and walk through the school grounds. This is a much safer place to park. If you are unable to do this then can you please remember **not to park on the zig-zag lines** at the corner of the horseshoe, **in the horse shoe** or on the **rectangular areas marked out** on Elmham Road.

Thank you.



Duck Race

SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2019

On the river at Beetley Meadow

Fun from 12pm with Duck Race at 12.30pm

**BBQ, Refreshments,
Teddy Tombola, Raffle, Hook a Duck
& Welly Wanging Competition**

Ducks from Beetley Preschool,
Committee Members or Debbie on 07917 440229
or beetleypreschool@hotmail.com

