



PRE-SCHOOL MATTERS

March 2017

AGM & Parent's Night

Tuesday 21st March 8.15pm at St Luke's

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 21 March from 8.15pm at St Luke's Church. As well as the AGM, there will be opportunity to talk to your child's Key Person.

The committee will give an insight into how the pre-school is doing and what our vision is for the next 12 months and Mrs Aslanfard will do a talk on how best we can support children's learning and development.

We are always looking for parents to help contribute to and shape the running of our pre-school, and the AGM is a great opportunity to meet new people and get involved. Please come and have a chat with parents currently on the committee about what is involved - we would love to see you all there!

30 Hour funding

From September 2017, all 3-4 year olds will be entitled to 15 hours of free childcare and working parents 30 hours (1140 hours per year). Those eligible for 30 hours are those children whose parents are both working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family). Each parent has to have a weekly minimum income equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage; and neither parent earns more than £100,000.

Leahurst Road Pre-school can only offer a maximum 21 hours of childcare per week but parents can split the 1140 with other settings.

If you have any questions on this, then please contact Jane anytime or talk to her at the AGM.

Fee Increase

We are increasing our fees from April to a flat hourly rate of £4.50 per hour (including lunch club). This is in line with the increase in the funded rate that we receive from Notts CC.

Our rent for St Luke's went up by 13.5% in September and also the living wage increased significantly last year.

As you know we are a charity, and any fee increase is not taken lightly but we had to make this increase in line with our higher costs.

Train Sponsorship

Thank you so much for supporting pre-school by encouraging your little one to colour in their train and collect sponsorship! The activity raised a very respectable **£170** which will go towards high visibility jackets and programmable toys.

Afternoon Sessions

Our afternoon sessions are becoming increasingly popular—especially with our older children who are due to start school in September. Please do speak to Jane if you wish to switch any morning sessions to afternoons.

On the subject of afternoon sessions, unless there's a special pre-arranged reason, please can all children be picked up at **3.45pm**, not before (as it can disrupt the session). Thanks.

Language Top Tip from Mrs Harrison:

Use simple, repetitive language. Keep sentences short. Describe your every day activities. As you talk about what you are doing, repeat your words slowly and clearly. Saying things more than once helps children to join in and pick up new words.

CONTACT US:

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Registered Charity No: 1018262

TERM DATES

SPRING TERM 2017

Monday 9th January -
Friday 31st March
13th - 17th February (half term)

SUMMER TERM 2017

Tuesday 18th April -
Friday 21st July
29th May - 2nd June (half term)

AUTUMN TERM 2017

Monday 11th September -
Friday 22nd December
23rd - 27th October (half term)

SESSION TIMES:

Monday & Friday: 9.15am - 3.45pm

Tuesday & Wednesday:
9.15am - 1.15pm

Lunch Club everyday:
12.15pm - 1.15pm

Welcome!

A big hello and welcome to all our new starters. We hope you're all settled and happy at pre-school. Please do speak to Mrs Aslan, your child's Key Person or Jane Sweeney if there is anything at all we can do to help.

Getting Social!

For the latest news and updates, please do 'like' our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LeahurstRoadPreschool) and follow us on Twitter @leahurstroadps).



Q&A with Kate Coppinger



We had a chat to the pre-school's committee Chair to find out more about her and what her role's all about...

What is your role at pre-school? My official title is "Chair" which sounds a bit grand!

What does that involve? Jane and Mariam are so good, that I don't really do very much! I talk to Jane and Mariam on a fairly regular basis about all things pre-school, but that's more of a chat really. I also love being a team with my fellow committee members! I've made some great friends through the preschool.

Do you spend a lot of your time on pre-school matters? No, not much at all, some weeks a couple of hours but usually just a few minutes here and there.

What additional skills do you think you have gained from your Chair role? I stopped working after Bertie so it's been great to keep my hand in with the things I've done whilst on the committee. It's fantastic to be part of a team of people who really care about the pre-school and our children.

How long have you been associated with pre-school? Bertie is my third child and he started preschool when he was two. He's my first to go to Leahurst. My girls went to nursery when I worked. I heard about preschool from lots of friends who thought it was brilliant! I'm so delighted to say it still is completely brilliant! Bertie loves his time at preschool and has really flourished.

What's your professional background? I'm an Employment Lawyer. I worked at an international law firm for 14 years before I stopped work when I had Bertie.

Have you always lived in the area? I grew up in Bramhall (near Stockport) and went to university in Leicester. I started work in Nottingham and then met my husband, James at work. He's a lawyer too and we've been married 13 years this year. We live in Radcliffe on Trent now with Ella (nearly 11), Tilly (8) and Bertie.

What do you most enjoy about your role? I love being involved with pre-school. Everyone is genuinely lovely and it's made me really appreciate how lucky I am to have found the pre-school. It's great to be part of a team and I've made some great friends.

Any hobbies outside of pre-school? Well, I do like to run - well - I enjoy the feeling after I've run! Parkrun is my most favourite thing to do with Ella every Saturday! I also like going out for meals with James and having folks over for dinner!

Are you currently doing/planning anything exciting you want to share? Crumbs! That's a tough question! I've just started working at Up and Running in Nottingham. It's completely different to my previous job and I love it because I get to chat to all of the customers! Chatting is something my children will tell you I excel at!

Staff Profile: Claire Quick



Claire has worked at pre-school on the relief team for 7 years now, starting in 2010. She works different days depending on when extra staff are required.

Claire grew up in Wilford, studied for GCSEs, 'A' levels and then went on to Leeds University to study nursing. For the first 18 months of her course she looked after sick children. Claire finished her course and became a Registered Nurse and moved back to Nottingham where she worked as a nurse for 14 years at the QMC and then as a community nurse around the West Bridgford area.

During this time Claire got married and had 3 children: Lauren, Joshua and Harry. They now live in Gamston with their pet cat, Holly, where they have been for the past 15 years. Both of her sons attended Leahurst Road Pre-School.

As Claire's children got older and moved up to school she followed them and became a mid day supervisor. You'll still find her at their school every lunch time.

Claire loves meeting the children when they start pre-school at 2 years old and following them as they grow up and eventually leave primary school at 11!

Claire's weekends usually involve taking her children to sports events. Both of her sons are very sporty and play football. Her eldest son also enjoys canoe slalom.

Healthy Lunchboxes Please

We really do try and promote a healthy eating culture at pre-school. Please can you try to give your child as many healthy options as possible in their lunchbox, avoiding sweets, chocolate, cake and crisps.

Please can you also avoid anything containing nuts (no Nutella or peanut butter sandwiches) as we have a child with nut Allergy. Thanks.

"My First Poem"

We are taking part in this year's "My First Poem - All About Me" competition - you might have seen Mrs Harrison's poster on display on the door.



The poem template has easy blank spaces for you to fill in on behalf of your child. It's a brilliant way to introduce rhyme, and creates a lovely snapshot of your child's favourite things at the age they are now.

Pre-School will receive a complimentary copy of the book that your child's poem features in. We could also win £1000!!!!

Please see Mrs Harrison for a template. All entries need to be given in by 24th March 2017.