

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely, warm start we had to the term although we now seem to be well and truly into Autumn.

A very warm welcome to all those new children and families who have joined us this term: Ellie, Ellie, Helena, Edmund, Albert, Lucia, Holly, Elliot, also Florence, who will be joining us in November.

Every child has a name card with their photo on, kept in their named drawer. Please could you help your child to self-register by putting their name on the carpet board in the story area each morning.

Your children have all been given a “key-person” (see parents notice board). This staff member is the one who will complete your child’s “Learning Journey” Records (which will be in your child’s tray for you to access at any time) and the person to whom you will normally speak if there is anything at all you wish to discuss, although you are welcome to speak to any of us. For this term only I am only in Pre-School for 3 days a week, my apologies if I don't see you or your child very often. Please feel free to email me if you have anything you want to discuss.

For some short activities each morning your children are divided into 2 groups, depending on their developmental stage, but with the aim that all those children who are moving to School in September will be working in one group before Easter, ready to take part in school transition activities. The children have decided themselves that this term their groups will be "Butterflies" and "Caterpillars". We began working in these groups last week.



The Butterflies have been looking at things that grow; we shelled some peas! If any of you have anything growing in your garden which your child could bring in to show the others, that would be great! This week the Butterflies are also going on Autumn Treasure Hunts on the School field!



The Caterpillars have been learning songs by taking objects from a box! You may hear them singing "What's in the Box today". They are learning to sit together as a group and be confident to join in.



During the morning the children will all have a healthy snack time, usually fruit, which some of



them may help to prepare. They are offered milk or water to drink. They all wash their hands before snack and lunch. The younger children are seated at the table and given a snack and drink whilst the older children have their group session. The older children are offered snack when the younger ones have group time, they



have a little more choice but are actively encouraged to have something. We have recently put a register in place where we record whether a child has had something to eat and drink. Drinking water will always be available.

At lunch time (for those who stay) we all sit together to eat, with a member of staff sitting at each table. We encourage each child to eat everything in their lunch box and have a drink. (If you include grapes in a lunch box they are much less of a choke hazard if they're cut in half lengthways) The children remain seated all the time they are eating. After lunch we sit in the story corner and look at books or have a story until most children have finished.

The door to the garden is always open (except during arrival time and lunch



time), whatever the weather, as lots of our learning is done outside. Please make sure your child has named boots to change into and suitable wet weather/warm clothing, soft shoes or slippers are good for indoor wear; a change of clothes is also advisable! Please name as much as possible. Thanks.

Some parents have asked about coming in to help at Pre-School. You are always welcome to come and spend a morning or afternoon with us. Please let me know if you would like to do so and we will arrange a date. Let me know if there is anything special you would like to do e.g. cooking or if you have an interesting hobby or job you think the children would be interested in.

The staff and I look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Best wishes,

Karen.

So far this term the children have shown a real interest in:



water play



re-telling stories



cooking



insects



paint and glue



blowing bubbles