

## Term 3 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to Pre-School! An especially warm welcome to all the new children - Channan, Nayan, Lucy, Megan, Autumn and Thomas and their families who have just joined us.

### **Christmas**

The children all enjoyed their Christmas activities, in particular, the trip to the theatre and the Christmas party on the last day of term. Huge thanks to Susan (Freya's Mum) for organising both of these events, and to everyone who helped with the party. We were also delighted to be able to visit our neighbours at Coombe House at Christmas, and we hope that this will be the start of a very special relationship between us. Thank you to Caroline (Betsy's Mum) and Jo (Sophie's Mum) for helping us on the day.



Singing our Christmas songs at Coombe House

### **Rhyme Challenge**

The children were all really enthusiastic in learning and performing their Christmas songs for the annual Rhyme Challenge. In fact, they developed such an interest in rhyme this year, that we spent many a happy hour sharing rhyming stories (particularly 'Oi, Frog')! at their request, and several of the children had a go at making up their own rhymes, choosing real and imaginary words that rhyme with their own names. All the children who took part in the challenge will shortly receive a certificate.

### **Football and music sessions**

Our Friday morning football sessions will re-commence this week. These run from 9.45 – 10.15 on the school field. If your child does not attend a Friday session, they are still welcome to join us. We just ask you to accompany them in order to maintain our staffing ratios. Please ensure your child brings suitable shoes/boots on the day.

Musicians from the Palmer Ensemble will continue to visit us once a month on a Thursday morning, following their concerts in Goring. The dates for these visits are as follows: 2<sup>nd</sup> February (to be confirmed), 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> April. We are very fortunate to be able to provide this experience for the children. Again, please feel free to come and join us if your child does not normally attend Pre – School on a Thursday.

### **Clothing**

We spend much of our day outside. Please ensure your child comes to Pre – School with suitable clothing – warm coats, waterproofs, boots, hats, scarves and gloves, along with plenty of spare clothes to change into if they get wet or muddy. It helps us enormously if you could label these clearly (and also ensures they will get back to you more quickly if they go home with the wrong child!)

### **School admissions**

Please note that the closing date for school applications for September 2017 in both West Berkshire and Oxfordshire is **January 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you need any help with this process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Interested in helping out?**

We welcome all offers of help at Pre – School! This can involve reading stories, sharing a skill or interest or simply coming along for a play! If any parents, grandparents or carers would like to come along and help during a session, please let us know!

### **Maths Research**

In partnership with researchers at the University of Oxford, we have been invited to take part in a study investigating the development of children's early mathematics skills. The researcher would like to work with those children who will be starting



school this September. This is, of course, totally voluntary and your consent will be sought beforehand. Further information will follow shortly.

Dates for your diary

February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Palmer Ensemble (to be confirmed)

February 10<sup>th</sup> – End of Term 3

February 20<sup>th</sup> – Start of Term 4

March 1<sup>st</sup> - Parents' Evening

March 2<sup>nd</sup> Palmer Ensemble