

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a tough time it has been for all; staff, parents, carers and children alike. As we look forward toward the upcoming Spring Term, I wanted to share some updates with you regarding our wonderful pre-school.

Chair Absence

Firstly, I apologise for my unplanned absence. I usually send out a bi-termly newsletter. Following a turbulent end to my pregnancy, I had my baby girl, Sophia Cordelia, on 28th October, followed by a very rough recovery. She is a delight and worth all the drama. On New Years Day we tested positive for covid and I ended up in hospital briefly, with my newborn. Scary is an understatement. Recovery has been very tough and slow, but I am finally able to look at a screen intermittently and am very glad and thankful to be back as Chair (and as mummy).

Lockdown Heroes

Cheryl Allen, our magnificent Lead Teacher, all her staff and our brilliant committee held up the fort in my absence, which coincided with the current lockdown. Cheryl worked day and night to ensure our setting could remain open safely, with the right staffing levels. A massive thank you to Cheryl and all involved.

Newbies!

A warm welcome to our new starters this term! It is so lovely to have you join our setting. The committee and I wish you a happy time at our pre-school. I look forward to getting to know you as Chair and a fellow parent 😊 Please do get in touch anytime should you have any questions or feel lonely or overwhelmed. Don't forget: we are a parent-led pre-school which means you will get to know other parents (albeit virtually for the time being) through fundraising activities we regularly conduct together via WhatsApp and Facebook.

Fundraising*

**(figures are approximate as gift aid and fees from charity sites have not been taken into account)*

Our first online (pilot) bingo fundraising event, **Bingo Fish & Chip Night**, raised **£258.20**. A huge thank you to Donna, Penny, Don and Katie for orchestrating this. It took a lot of effort and nerves which definitely paid off! Their enthusiasm was a catalyst for the Bingo Christmas Special (see below).

Halloween Treat Boxes raised **£286** (profit)! This is absolutely fantastic!! Our team of bakers worked so hard, despite their personal commitments. Your efforts were 100% worth it. A huge thank you to Andrea, Donna, Jax, Vicky, Zoe, Sam.

Christmas Fundraising Events included: Bingo Christmas Special, Christmas Cards, online sales of makes and bakes.

The collective effort raised **£1348**. Thank you to: Louise, Katie, Andrea, Sam, Jenny, Donna, Vicky, Jax, Penny and Don. Special thanks to Tanya at Goring Hardware for matching the £100 raised by my indoor potted hyacinths and to Austin at Engelfield Garden Centre for donating the hyacinth bulbs.

If we raise another £1800, the Gatehampton Trust will match our fundraising efforts. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE help us reach our fundraising goals by volunteering to help and/or sparing any pennies (or encouraging others) this year. I do understand it is a difficult time financially and mentally for most.

A Lady, Two Wheels and a Mountain of Determination

One of our pre-school parents, Justyna, embarked on quite an adventure in the name of our pre-school. Justyna and her elderly neighbour Dave, struck up an amateur cycling friendship during lockdown 2020 to

keep one another sane. Sanity quickly turned into insanity, when they decided to tackle cycling the Ridgeway together on 31st October and 1st November, covering a distance of 87 miles. Seeing as the odds were already against them, the weather Gods decided to throw a hale storm their way, flat tyres... to mention a few challenges- it ended with broken bikes (and I hope lots of cheers and warm drinks!) but what a success, accomplishment and achievement!!!!

They raised a whopping **£923.75** (including gift aid). THANK YOU JUSTYNA AND DAVE!!!!!!

(I hope I haven't missed anyone out in my list of thank you's! Please do let me know if I have.)

Upcoming Fundraising Events

(CANCELLED) Valentines Day Treat Boxes: I made the decision to cancel this fundraiser given the stresses of the current lockdown on all parents and carers. I have streamlined our Spring fundraisers to allow for an easier and less time-consuming itinerary, where sales will commence 1st March. The more helping hands, the lighter the load on each of us as we are collectively responsible to reach our fundraising target.

Easter Egg Hunt, Friday 19th March 2021 (MOST LIKELY CANCELLED)

- 1. INSTEAD: Goring & Streatley's Decorated Easter Egg Competition! (Judging entries on Saturday 3rd April)** £1 minimum donation per entry! All entries of painted eggs will be displayed in the shop windows of Virgo Beauty on Goring Highstreet. Please see the attached poster for more info and get painting (open to children of all ages AND adults!)
- 2. 'Easternnoon' Teas and Outdoor Activity Boxes will be on sale at an affordable price from March 1st to April 30th.**
 - **Easternnoon Tea box:** will contain hot cross buns, butter, tea bags and easter eggs/chocolates.
 - **Outdoor Activity Box** will contain, for example, plant seeds, outdoor quests, a nature trail hunt, build a shelter challenge, outdoor survival tips, spot the bird chart etc to name a few. SIX lucky random boxes will win a guided nature walk by the famous Steven from Goring Gap Wildlife Walks!!!!

Amazon Smile

We have a charity account with Amazon Smile: every time you shop with Amazon, a percentage of the sale is given straight to Streatley Hill Pre-school. It is very easy to set up. Please go to smile.amazon.co.uk and select Streatley Hill Pre-school as your chosen charity, then shop through Amazon Smile every time. We currently generate £20/month like this but could get so much more!

Our Calender for the Year...

...is detailed here (and is constantly updated by me):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mL2GW4xSF-gaXOTmwCr6gWtBEZCRPV_HkxoGklvGpZw/edit

Please do bookmark it as term dates stipulated there are very helpful to have to hand at a glance. It also details upcoming fundraisers you have assigned yourselves to.

I do hope you all keep safe and well but above all, find happiness in the little things in life, where possible.

Positive vibes, best wishes (and always here for you),

Mrs Iman (Faith) Khonji
Chair
Streatley Hill Pre-School