 All Saints Preschool

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**June Newsletter** A big welcome to all our new children and parents! it is so lovely to have lots of children again after a few tough years for everyone. Its lovely hearing happy children playing together having lots of fun. We Also have three new staff members who we are thrilled to welcome into preschool. Laura, Nazma and Salma are now part of the team and settling in well, enjoying preschool life.

**Garden revamp sensory garden and Vegetable patch**  We are extremely lucky to have volunteers from Aecom in Basingstoke renovating our garden- this is very exciting. There will be a new sunshade near the building, a trail behind the mud kitchen and a new playhouse. You are all invited to bring your children along to the unveiling on Tuesday 31st May. Press photographers will be arriving at 4pm. we would love to have some families along for photos! We also need help and ideas with planting. If anyone can help us source flowers, fruit and veg plants, plants for a sensory area, compost and topsoil for free or cheaply that would be wonderful! As ever, if you have skills in gardening, construction/DIY, or anything else you think might be useful, please do let us know.

**Joining /supporting your preschool** the committee are looking for people to help get involved supporting the staff after half term with sports day, looking after the garden and leavers ceremony, plus fundraising and other support. If you are happy to help, please contact charlotte or Joe via email. (secretary@aspswinchester.org or manager@aspswinchester.org ) we have an ‘informal parents’ WhatsApp group to share information about events and preschool in general. Please message Jo on 07740605419 if you’d like to be added.

**Sun cream and hat** Its fantastic to have the sunshine and to be able to enjoy our beautiful garden. However, the garden has very little shade, so it is extremely important that you cover your child in sun cream **before** they come into preschool. Including under jumpers in case they take them off. We will ask you to apply sun cream at the door if it hasn’t been done already. We will top up sun cream for those children who attend all day sessions. Sun hats are also needed and clearly labelled please.

**Collection and drop off** please can we remind you that the drop off times in the morning are 8.30 and 9.00. At the end of the day, we close promptly at 3.30, so please ensure you are on time to collect your child, as we share the church hall with other users.

**Hygiene** with lots of bugs spreading at present we would like to ask you:

* to keep your Childs nails clean and short
* clean lunch boxes and bags regularly
* check for headlice as often as possible. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home and remember its 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea before they can return to us. If you are unsure at all about any illness, please call to check before you send your child. We have had scarlet fever, thread worm, ring worm and diarrhoea and sickness

**Healthy lunch box & grapes** we are really pleased that most lunch boxes are healthy at present we would just like to remind you that nuts, sweets, and large chocolate bars are not allowed. Grapes are fantastic but **do need to be cut in half** long ways as they are a choking hazard. Ice packs are good while the weather is hot as we cannot refrigerate anything. Please could all bottles be put on the white trolley in the morning (labelled). Please also provide spoons and forks if needed.

**Sports day** we are excited to invite you all to our sports day on Friday 8th July 9.30 to 11.30. The event will be at the sports stadium behind the new leisure centre. More details about the day will be given out closer to the date. It really is a lovely morning and family members are all welcome to come and join in the fun.

**Marwell Trip**  the Marwell Zoo trip will be on Wednesday 13th July. We will have a permission letter coming out after half term which will explain in more detail. We will leave preschool at 9.15 and return around 3.00 to allow for traffic, (in time for school pick up) we are finalising costs based on minibuses and coaches. We will let you know asap what these costs will be.

**Leavers Ceremony** Wednesday 20th July we will be inviting parents to attend the leavers ceremony for those children moving up to big school. This is a morning of mixed emotion however we make it really fun for the children and love having the opportunity to say goodbye in a fun way. Parents will be invited around 11.00. An invite will be sent out to you. For those children leaving in July, we ask that you bring in a USB so we can save all of their tapestry onto it for you to keep forever. (Tapestry accounts are deleted 90 days after your child leaves) we are working on printing options.

**Potty/toilet training** Due to lots of children potty/toilet training at present, which is amazing! We are asking that children have Velcro trainers or crocs and no Shoelaces and dungarees where possible. If using pull ups please ensure they have a side fastening (it takes a long time to undress and dress each child) and ensure enough pants, socks and trousers are in their bags as we have a shortage of socks and correct loose-fitting clothes. **We are always looking for donations of crock shoes to put in spare box.**

 **Sessions /** **Funding and hours** we are nearly full for children’s spaces in September, if you would like to add sessions to your Childs week then please let us know now. This also means for January and April 2023. If you have siblings, you would like a space for or know anyone who was going to enquire please tell them to contact us now for an application form.

Helpful information-if both parents work 16 hours each or more, or a single parent family who works 16 hours, and your child turns 3 before the end of December you **can apply for 30 hours free childcare**. We recommend applying 3 months before their 3rd birthday. You will be told if you qualify or not and given a code if successful. If you already have a code, please make sure you login regularly to update the account so you do not miss deadlines. This is on the government website. Charlotte or Katy Toms can help with any questions. If you are a low-income family, then you could qualify for **15 hours free childcare when your child is 2 years old.** This form can be completed on Hampshire County council website. (Same as school applications if you have an account already).

 **Dates for your diary**

* Friday 24th June **Inset Day**
* Sports day **event**
* Marwell trip
* Transition to school days
* Thursday Inset **Day**
* Friday **Inset**
* **Last day of term**
* September Return **to preschool**