



**Peach Tree Pre-school
Partnership Foundation Stage Unit
Church Lane
Hornton
Oxfordshire
OX15 6BZ
01295 678550
info@peachtree.org.uk
www.peachtree.org.uk**

Term 1 2014/15 Newsletter

15th September 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year.

We have six new children joining us this term and we would like to say a big hello to Kayden, Yann, Millie, Niamh, Harvey and James, welcome to Peach Tree Pre-school. We would also like to welcome Eli, who is new to the unit in Orchard class.

Staff Changes

We were very sad to have had to say goodbye to Miss Joyner over the summer holidays. Miss Joyner has decided to have a change in career and has begun her training as a Dental Nurse. We would like to wish her lots of luck in her new position.

We are, however, delighted to report that Mrs Gamage has re-joined the team and will be taking over as key person for Miss Joyner's key children. Those of you who have been with the pre-school for a longer period, will remember that Mrs Gamage worked with the children previously and was valued and loved by the children immensely, we are very glad to have her back with us.

We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs Wright into the unit. Mrs Wright was also a key member of the team in Peach Tree and following some time away from the unit, she has joined us with a different hat on! Mrs Wright is now employed by the school and is the teaching assistant for Orchard Class.

Essentially, what this means is that we have a strong and stable team to support the children through this academic year.

Children's hubs

In response to several issues we had last year, the hubs are changing to make them more user friendly! As opposed to the previous hubs, all the children's information will be stored on one page. Photos and plans for learning will be displayed in a blog format for all members of that hub (parents and key person) to view, add to and comment on.

You will shortly receive an email inviting you to become a member of your child's hub. It will read from Parent Share.

Please be aware, that for security reasons, inactivity for a length of time results in hub membership being blocked, with access needing to be granted again by the administrator. With this in mind an important feature of the new hubs is that whenever any member posts something new, an email with a link will be generated to all other members, ensuring that nothing is ever missed.

Please let us know if you are having any difficulties getting on your child's hub, both initially and once set up.

Children's details

There were several occasions last year when we needed to contact parents, but were unable to as contact details had changed. Therefore to ensure we have all the up to date details for your child, a child's details pack will be sent home this week, in each child's drawer (This does not apply to new starters).

Please return all forms by Friday 26th September.

Operation Christmas Child

This year we are supporting Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child, a charitable project run by the organisation Samaritans Purse, delivers the gift of Christmas to children all around the world, regardless of their background or religious beliefs. Our part is simple - by filling a wrapped shoe box with a few of the suggested items, adding a £3 donation to support carriage costs and bringing it into Peach Tree to be collected, we can give a child somewhere in the world a gift, in a place where Christmas may be a very different experience from what we are fortunate enough to experience.

More information can be found at

<http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

Leaflets with more information will be placed in your child's drawer.

Clothing

A quick reminder as the weather becomes more Autumnal – We do encourage the children to explore all the resources available to them, both inside and outside, they will, therefore require a suitable outdoor coat and footwear to enable them to do so. Please remember to send children in clothing and footwear that is not precious and will stand up to the elements of play.

Nursery Education Grant

Nursery Education Grant funding forms, for all children who were 3 before 31st August 2013, will be sent out this week, these will cover sessions up until Christmas. If you would like to change or increase your child's sessions this term, please advise us before returning the form. Whilst admissions can be changed later in the term, claims for funding cannot be changed once the forms have been submitted. For parents claiming funding for the first time, we are requested by the County Council to see the original copy of your child's birth certificate or a passport for confirmation of their details, this takes a couple of minutes and the certificate will be returned back to you immediately. Could all forms please be returned by Friday 26th September.

In line with Nursery Education Grant Funding, our hourly rate has increased to £3.90.

Committee

As many of you are aware, the pre-school is run by a voluntary committee. However, as children move on from their time at pre-school, naturally, so do their parents/committee members. The Pre-schools Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October is fast approaching and it is time to consider how you could help our small pre-school, it is essential that we maintain a working committee. Committee meetings are held approximately once every half term and are very informal - a small commitment, but of great value. We would very much like to hear from you if you would like to become involved in the committee in any way, big or small. Please speak to Natalie Collins (Chair) – Peggy's mum, contactable through the pre-school or at nataliepoo79@hotmail.com

Useful information – Reminders and for parents new to the pre-school

Safeguarding children

We at Peachtree Foundation Unit are committed to safeguarding the children in our care. We would like to assure parents that strict policies and procedures are in place to protect the children and staff. As you all know, all staff undergo clearance thorough the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) before being permitted to accompany any child into the bathroom area. With this in mind, it would be irresponsible of us to allow other adults, parents or helpers, into the bathroom area, when clearance from DBS has not been received. This is not intended to be a slur on the character of any parent/carer, but purely a step to offer the best possible protection to all of the children in our care. Please see our Toilet Access Policy for clarification.

Fundraising

As you know, Peach Tree Pre-school is a non-profit making charity. We rely heavily on fundraising to carry on providing the facilities and equipment needed for our outstanding setting.

As such, the committee ask for your help!

Easyfundraising.org.uk is the easiest way to raise money for Peachtree Pre-School from the comfort of your own home. Shop with any of over 2,700 retailers and a percentage of what you spend is donated to Peachtree Pre-School at no additional cost to you. Retailers include Amazon, John Lewis, eBay, Tesco and many more. To find out more please visit the website.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/peachtreebanbury>

Please register to support us today – If you have any questions please speak to a member of the Pre-school committee.

Existing Injuries Form

We are required by law, to record the accidents children have whilst in our care. We are also advised by the Health and Safety Executive and Safeguarding Children's Board to record the pre-existing injuries of children coming into the setting. If your child has had an accident prior to coming to pre-school, please do not be alarmed if you are asked to fill in an Existing Injury Form. If we notice a pre-existing injury during the session, we will complete an Existing Injury Form and confirm with you on your return.

Pre-school Fees

If you have any queries or questions regarding fees or payments, please contact the administrative assistant, Mrs Short, who can be contacted through the pre-school or shorties@btinternet.com

Please see/contact Karen Locke with regards to sessions and admissions.

Parent Help Rota

As always the parent help rota is up on the notice board for any parent wishing to come and spend a session (or more) with us at the pre-school. We are always very grateful for your help and it's a great way to gain an insight of how your child learns through play at Peachtree. You are welcome to come and join our play, if you feel you would like to do an activity, share a skill, talent, job role or experience etc. or read a story at group time, please let a member of the team know.

Nut Allergy

We have several children at the pre-school with a nut allergy.

We must therefore stress that children's lunch boxes must not contain nuts or any products containing nuts.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to keep Peach Tree a nut free environment.

Thank you for your continuing support

The Foundation Unit Team