

Combe Pre-school Newsletter Summer Term 5 2018

Welcome Back

We hope you all enjoyed the Easter break, and that you are all looking forward to the new term, it’s going to be very busy!

New Children

We would like to give a warm welcome to Lottie, Alasdair, Jessie, Joseph, Violet, Theo and Matilda and their families. We hope you enjoy your time with us and make lots of new friends.

New Staff

As our attendance numbers have grown, we have recruited some lovely new Pre-school Assistants.

Kelly Coxhead will be working on Friday’s at Pre-school and ASC. She has a BTEC National Diploma in Childcare Level 3 and has worked for 14 years with children in settings and as a nanny.

Becky Hall recently became redundant from Tackley Pre-school due to its closure. She has a Level 2 Childcare qualification and has a son. Becky will be working on Monday’s and Tuesday’s at Pre-school and Wednesday’s ASC session.

Lizzie Combe is a qualified PE secondary school teacher, who is interested in pursuing a career in Early Years. She has two children of her own, Theo and Matilda who will also be joining us at pre-school. Lizzie will be working on Wednesday and Thursday morning’s at Pre-school.

We hope you will all make our new staff feel welcome as they start with us this term.



Monday 16th April – Term 5 starts at 9am,

Friday 20th April – Charlotte’s Chocolate Truffle Workshop and Social Evening for adults 7.30 for 8pm start,

Monday 7th May – Bank Holiday Pre-school & ASC closed,

Sunday 20th May – Combe Garage Sale 10am to 2pm,

Friday 25th May –Term Ends for Half Term Holiday.

Monday 4th June – Staff In set Day. Pre-school & ASC closed.

Tuesday 5th June Term 6 Starts @9am.

New Topic

We are looking forward to learning all about Fairy Tales this term. Here’s what we will be doing each week:

Week 1: Settling in week,

Week 2: The Ugly Duckling,

Week 3: Cinderella,

Week 4: Jack and the Beanstalk,

Week 5: The Three Little Pigs,

Week 6: Sleeping Beauty.

Allergies

Due to children’s allergies, the staff request that you do not bring in any food items containing bananas or nuts, as we have a duty to ensure that these children do not come into contact with their allergens. Thank you for all your help in this matter.

A baby wipe free zone

Pre-school is now a ‘baby wipe free zone’. In the past we have experienced problems with the new sewage pump due to baby wipes being disposed of down the toilet. As a result, we are now banning baby wipes from being used at pre-school and after-school club to help us prevent further problems and their associated costs.

Staff will use cool warm water and cotton wool at nappy changing times. We also ask that parents do not bring in baby wipes in their child’s bags, so that the children do not get hold of these and throw them down the toilet.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

School Dinners

Anne-Marie will soon be taking over the ordering of the school dinners each term. She will be using a new pre-school email address, and will be contacted all parents about orders for after the half term holiday.

Pre-school Parent Questionnaire

During Term 2, we sent out a parent questionnaire. The staff would like to give some feedback on a few of the replies we received.

Our Current Links with Combe Primary School: What we do:

1. We currently have a stronger link with Combe Primary school than ever before. Our After-school club was set up in 2014 and we have worked with the school to ensure the continued safety of the children at collection times, and review and change these procedures when necessary. The pre-school children who attend ASC have the opportunity to play and get to know the school children, before they start school. This helps their transition to school, as they will get to know more familiar faces and may even develop a friendship with these children.

2. We provide the school with a list of children whom we will be collecting each day, so the teachers are aware of which children will be coming to us each day. The school catering staff provide our school dinners, and our staff liaise with the catering staff to provide correct numbers for ordering school dinners each day in advance. Our staff drive down to the school to collect the dinners and bring them to pre-school each day.

3. During the summer term, we contact Mrs Gehin (Foundation Stage Teacher at Combe) and invite her to come and visit the Rising Five children at Pre-school, before the children go for their introductory visit at school. At the end of the summer term, the staff hand over the children’s Learning Journey’s to Mrs Gehin so she can see exactly at what stage each child is at developmentally.

4. Our staff attend the new Foundation Stage Parents Information Evening at the school to introduce our After-school Club to the parents, should they require childcare when their child starts school.

5. Our staff will attend meetings at school that concern children at Pre-school or our After-school Club, to further support the children in our care and their families.

6. Other school from out of the village are contacted during the summer term, to invite other Foundation stage teachers to visit the children who may be attending their school. We are aware the teachers are very busy professionals, and can’t always come for a visit. Our staff, again pass on the children’s Learning Journey’s to each school.

What we don’t do: We currently don’t attend school events, plays and assemblies, as this type of learning for our age group of children is not appropriate. A child’s concentration span is 1 minute above their age, for example, a three year olds concentration span is 4 minutes long. Attending a school event such as an assembly, would prove challenging for our age group as the children would soon get bored and start fidgeting around, which would also be unfair and disruptive for the school children.

In Summery: We would like to further our connections with local primary schools in the area, but as teachers and our own practitioners are very busy, we have to find the correct balance between looking after our children at our different setting’s, as this is our priority. We also need to select appropriate activities that would be of benefit to both the school children and Pre-school aged children.

 How we Give Feedback to Parents: What we do:

1. Our staff will try our best to give daily feedback to parents at the end of the session/day. Although this might not be possible for all staff, as we still have to care for the other children who are staying on to lunch and the afternoon session.
2. Our staff complete Entry Assessments and 2 year old check forms for all the children in our care. Your child’s key person may hand this to you to read through at home, where you can write on your own comments, before returning them to us. If we feel we have enough time and staff cover, we may even arrange a meeting to discuss these forms in more details with you.
3. We hold Parents evenings twice a year, where you are invited to discuss your child’s progress with your child and view your child’s Learning Journey’s. We may suggest activities to try at home to extend and encourage your child’s learning further. If you can’t make our parents evening’s, if you speak to your child’s key person, then they will happily arrange an alternative date/time with you.
4. We try our best to display a planning sheet on our front door, if time allows. As we only have 15 minutes to set up each morning, this does not always gets completed on time. Our weekly planning sheets can be viewed on our Calender and Planning page on our website.
5. We write a Facebook post each week stating what we have been learning about, with photos for you to view.

What we don’t do: We don’t write home-pre-school diaries for each child. The staff have trialled these before, and we have found that they take the staff away from working with the children each day, and cause additional pressure and stress on our staff.

Children’s Learning Journey’s: What we do.

1. When parents come to visit our setting, we give a brief overview of what we do and talk about how each child has a Learning Journey, where we track their progress. We also hand out a ‘Welcome Pack’ which explains about the Learning Journey and provides a large amount of information on Pre-school and what we do and why. It’s the Parent’s responsibility to read this pack before their child starts at our setting, and ask the staff any further questions regarding the information given. This pack is also downloadable from our documents page on our website.
2. Our staff will arrange a date with new parents to come for a Home Visit. Our staff will take along a checklist of things to talk about and a blank Learning Journey for the parents to look at. We also give parents a ‘What I can do at home’ sheet, that parents fill in and return to us. This gives the staff an opportunity to see your child’s starting points and to track where they are in their stage of development and learning.
3. As parents, you are welcome to view your child’s Learning Journey at a convenient time for you. Due to lack of space at Pre-school, Your child’s Learning Journey is locked away for safe keeping in our filing cabinet, so it’s very difficult for us to position them in the open for you to view regularly. Hopefully this may change in the future, when the building is renovated buy Combe Hub.

What we don’t do: We currently don’t do electronic Learning Journey’s as we don’t have the money to afford to buy the technology to support these systems. The staff also do not want to be seen promoting the use of technology in front of the children at regular intervals during the day.

Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you everyone who came along and supported our Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone had great fun despite getting soaking wet.

Charlotte’s Chocolate Workshop: Friday 20th April 7:30pm for a 8pm start.

Charlotte (Austin’s Mum) has kindly agreed to hold a fundraising chocolate workshop for adults to come along and create some special chocolate truffles. Please book your place in advance by contacting Charlotte at chocolateutopia@outlook.com or call 01993 891988 as there are limited places.

Combe Garage Sale

Pre-school will once again be holding the Combe Garage Sale event this year. We hope to raise money for Pre-school and After-school club from this popular village event on Sunday 20th May 10am to 2pm.

All money raised will go to Combe Pre-school and After-school Club.

Easy Fundraising

If you shop online, you can still help us raise funds for pre-school and after-school club by creating an account and visiting retailers through this site. Companies will donate a percentage of money to our pre-school if you use this site whilst shopping online. You can access the link via our website or by visiting <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/?v=c>.

Website

Events, calendar dates, newsletters and our weekly planning sheets can be viewed on our website, as we update this regularly.

Facebook Page

To keep up-to-date with events and news from our Pre-school and After-school club, then please take a look and like our face book page which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/combepreschoolandafterschool>. Don’t forget to like us!

Thank You for taking the time to read our newsletter.

Best Wishes

Andrea, Sarah, Anne-Marie, Kate, Kelly, Becky, Lizzie and Jo.