The Orchard *Committee Newsletter*

July 2021

Welcome to our regular newsletter for a round-up of the latest news and information from The Orchard Pre-School.

A few little reminders and bits of information as we near the end of this slightly difficult, but definitely memorable year!

**Staff news**

Helen, our new Educator, has settled in well at The Orchard and is already a firm favourite of all the children! We have also been joined this half term by Tally, who is undertaking a number of days work experience with us before she embarks on her childcare apprenticeship.

Jess and Clair have hit the ground running with their new roles, introducing a number of events already. They are also working hard to prepare for the implementation of the new EYFS in September, and are carrying out a range of CPD courses to ensure they have the latest knowledge and training.

**Chairperson**

The Chair of the Committee is stepping down at the end of July, as her son will be leaving The Orchard and she will be taking on a full-time role elsewhere. Therefore, we are recruiting for a new Chairperson. This is a wonderful opportunity to help The Orchard develop, particularly at this exciting time as the new team make a number of changes. If you have a bit of spare time and would like to be involved in how the pre-school is run, please have a chat with Jess, or email: chair@theorchardps.org.uk to find out more.

It is a legal requirement for the Orchard to have a committee with a Chair and 5 members. If we do not have volunteers for these positions, then the Orchard is not allowed to operate. Please do get in touch if you are able to help in any way.

**Sports Day**

As previously mentioned, Sports Day on the 3rd July has been cancelled. It will now take place during the week on Wednesday 30th June, without parent spectators. With no change in the restrictions, it was decided that it was safer and calmer for the children. The Sports Day will take place in the morning, with a variety of games, races and activities for the children to be involved in. They will also receive a medal and an ice cream at the end of the event to celebrate. Staff will do their best to take a lot of photos throughout the morning, that they will share with you on Tapestry.

**Snacks**

From September, we will be asking parents to bring in a donation of fruit for snack time. This was stopped during the pandemic to reduce items being brought into the pre-school, but with the improvement in the situation, we now feel it is safe for this to re-commence. Please send your child in with some fruit (eg. a banana, apple, melon) or a healthy snack (eg. rice crackers or bread sticks). These will then all be shared amongst the children at snack time.

For the remainder of this term, the staff will continue to provide the snack. If you are able to donate £2 towards this for this half term, we would be very grateful.

**Extra sessions**

We have some availability for afternoon sessions in September. If you would like to increase your child’s hours at all, please fill in the ‘Change of Session’ form on the website and Jess will get back to you with confirmation as soon as possible**.**

Wishing all the older children the very best of luck as they leave The Orchard and move on to their new Primary Schools. We hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday!

Best wishes and stay safe,

*The Orchard Committee*

*Nicola, Katie, Sarah, Natasha and Donna*Useful Dates

Friday 25th June – Group photo (10.30am)

Tuesday 13th July – Trip to the shop (Big Club)

Tuesday 20th July – End of term party (10.30am – 12pm)

Tuesday 20th July – last day of term (finish 12pm)

Friday 3rd September – first day of term