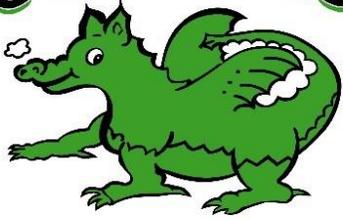


ST MARKS



PRE-SCHOOL

Newsletter

November 2020

Dear families and friends,

Welcome back to pre-school after what I hope was an enjoyable half term break, albeit a bit wet! There are lots of fun activities planned this term for the children to take part in along with Christmas activities towards the end of term!

In the first week of Term 2 the children took part in Wacky Races where they could choose either a scooter, car or balance bike to do lots of laps on a wiggly track. This was thoroughly enjoyed by the children and we thank you for any sponsorship money that you were able to collect and donate towards purchasing outdoor resources. Your support with this event is hugely appreciated by all the staff and committee. When we have received all of the sponsorship money we will share the total amount raised with you and then ask you to vote, via our Facebook page, for some resources for our playground.

We would like to thank Martin Jones for coming to take photos of the children and their siblings which will make fantastic Christmas gifts for relatives, please look out for further information from the office on how to view and purchase these pictures.

As we are unable to hold our annual Christmas Bazaar this year and so will be selling the following items to support our fundraising this year:



Reindeer hot chocolate cone



Reindeer food



Reindeer noses



Penguin poop

By the end of this week you will receive an order form, please let us know the items you would like and return the form to the office by Friday 4th December to enable them to be delivered to your child at pre-school before the end of term.

We are also going to host a virtual raffle through a 100 square. This will be on the pre-school Facebook page at £2 a square with the chance of winning some amazing prizes including Salisbury BID vouchers, a Tropic Skincare Discovery Kit, an amazon voucher, vouchers for local restaurants and more! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the latest raffle prizes! If you know any local businesses that could donate a prize towards this please let Sophie, Rachel or a committee member know. Thank you in advance.

As always please do speak to any member of the committee or staff if you have any questions or ideas that you would like to share.

We look forward to seeing you at pre-school this term.

Sam Williams - Chair of the Committee

Key Dates for your diary

Term 2: Monday 2nd November -
Wednesday 16th December
*We will be open as usual on Friday 11th
December.*

Parent chats for both rooms:
7th-15th December & 5th-11th January
*15 minutes allocated to each parent and
key worker*

Blue Dragons, Christmas Tree Festival:
1st December - 15th December

Term 3: Monday 4th January - Friday
12th February

2021 School Place Applications
Deadline: Friday 15th January
2021

Key Contacts

Rachel Schendel,
Pre-School Manager
Sophie Barker,
Pre-School Administrator
01722 330382
admin@stmarks-preschool.co.uk

Social Media

Check out our Facebook page;
@StMarksPreSchoolSalisbury

Green Dragons - Term 1: This term in Green Dragons we will be celebrating Diwali, the Indian festival of light and the children will be tasting different foods from around the world. We have created a shop to explore and a shape board. They will also be learning how to use a programmable beebot toy.

Blue Dragons - Term 1: This term we will be exploring the Diwali Festival and experimenting with different textures with sensory play including rice, couscous, and porridge. We will also enjoy some marble rolling in the craft area using different coloured paints and begin learning some Christmas songs.

Allergy and 'Nut Free' Information

Due to allergies we ask that you **do not** send any nut products or kiwi in your child's lunch box, this includes sesame seeds and hummus.

Invoices

Many thanks for remaining patient during the transition period to using our new invoicing system last term. The Term 2 invoices will be sent to parents the week commencing Monday 16th November.

Things to pack, donations & name labels

As the weather begins to get much colder and wetter please ensure that the children have lots of layers e.g. vests, long sleeved tops, sweatshirts, and coats. Please also include gloves, hats, and wellies too. Could we please ask you to promptly return any borrowed clothes after washing and if you have any age 4-5 boys trousers, we would be grateful of donations as we are running very low at this time.

We also ask that all items of clothing and shoes are clearly named. We can highly recommend www.MyNameTags.com where you can find personalised, machine washable name stickers which can also help us with fundraising as a small donation from each purchase will come to the pre-school. Please use the school code 97807 when placing your order.

Christmas Activities & Christmas Tree Festival

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions we will not be able to host our traditional annual Nativity Play this year. As an alternative the children will be learning some Christmas songs which will be filmed and posted on Tapestry for you to enjoy.

Each year our Blue Dragons children take part in the St Thomas's Church Annual Christmas Tree Festival which will go ahead this year with a 'virtual' difference and will be held online. This year the festival can be accessed from 1st December until 15th December at www.tomtreefest.org.uk and will capture all that is best and most meaningful about Christmas. The festival will support two local charities, The Jo Benson Day Centre and The Salisbury Child Contact Centre and after enjoying a virtual 'walk' through the festival, visitors will be encouraged to support these worthy causes and the Church itself by making a donation online.

Face Masks & Social Distancing

We politely remind all parents to wear a face mask at all times while on the school site and ask you to adhere to social distancing during drop off and pick up times which can become particularly busy.

A note from the office

We want to say a huge thank you to the parents and relatives who so kindly gave their time with some sewing and DIY jobs for us in recent weeks. Your help and support on jobs like these is always much appreciated and helps to enrich our setting for the children.