

# Bickleigh Pre-School

Pre-school Telephone Number  
07773 639353  
Play Leader - Jan Knott  
Deputy Play Leader - Mel Blann

## Diary Dates

**Beginning of Autumn Term**  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009  
**Half Term**  
26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
**End of Autumn Term**  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
**Tempest Photography**  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
**Next committee meeting**  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**Beginning of Spring Term**  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
**Half Term**  
15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
**End of Spring Term**  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Beginning of Summer Term**  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
**Half Term**  
31<sup>st</sup> May - 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
**End of Summer Term**  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010

## Traffic

We would like to remind parents when driving through the village to drive carefully, keeping to the speed limit of 20 mph.



## New Unit Update

I'm sure many of you are wondering what is happening with the plans for the new Foundation Unit. We were hoping to be able to give you the news that everything has been agreed, but unfortunately there have been some hold-ups. Slightly adjusted plans are currently with the planning office at County Hall and we have every confidence that common sense will prevail and the build will be given the go-ahead very soon. Meanwhile Mr Goode is doing everything he can in readiness, so that once permission has been obtained the building can start quickly for minimum disruption to both schools. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have written and signed letters of support for the unit, this has been greatly appreciated.

## Vacancy for Pre-school Playworker

Bickleigh on Exe is a welcoming, thriving Pre-school on the verge of an exciting new venture creating a foundation unit with the primary school. We care for up to 24 children from 2 ½ years to school age. We are seeking to appoint a qualified playworker for two days and two mornings (total of 21 hours) from September.

The successful candidate will become part of a team providing a secure, happy and stimulating environment for the children in our care.

We welcome applicants with NVQ Level 2 or an equivalent qualification. Salary will be dependent on qualifications and experience. Job sharing will be considered. The post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

For further information or to arrange a visit please telephone Lisa Hobson (Pre-school Chairperson) on 01884 855560 or Jan Knott (Playleader) at the Pre-school.

Closing date for applications – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

We are a charity committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Our charity is committed to equal opportunities in employment.

## Children's Records

Whilst children are at pre-school, staff keep records of their achievements, artwork and photographs of them at play. Each child has an individual file which their keyworker updates on a regular basis. We ask parents to contribute to their children's records by sharing information with staff. To help with this, at the beginning of each term we will be asking parents to fill in a new interest sheet, sharing with us activities which their children have enjoyed during the holidays and an idea of their current interests.

During their child's time at pre-school parents are welcome to look at their child's records when ever they want, in fact staff would recommend that they look at them once a term, that way they can see how their child is progressing. We would ask that you give your child's keyworker 24 hours notice when wanting to look at your child's records, so that staff can ensure they are up to date and at pre-school for you to see.

### Pre-school Sessions

We are pleased to announce that due to increased numbers next term we will be able to offer lunch and an afternoon session on Fridays.

### Contact details

We would be grateful if parents could check with either Jan or Mel that the current contact telephone numbers we have for you are correct.

We have found recently when trying to contact parents that some mobile numbers have changed.



### Staff

Some of you may have met Steff at pre-school this term, she is helping us out on a temporary basis as we needed an extra member of staff at a couple of sessions.

Due to increased numbers of children next term and the increasing demands on our current staff we will be hiring a new member of staff. We are currently advertising and hope that our new recruit will be able to begin work early next term. In the meantime Steff has kindly agreed to help us out where possible.

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Jan and Mel are pleased to announce that they have both passed their NVQ (Level 4) in Children's Care, Learning and Development.

**Yipee!**

## Newsletters

We are sorry that due to the every increasing amount of paperwork we have not been able to produce a newsletter this term and we are aware how much you like to know what is happening at pre-school. With this in mind, as well as the growing costs of paper and ink we would like to ask parents how they would feel about receiving future newsletters via e-mail???? Our thoughts were that we could then produce a newsletter four/five times a term, relaying all pre-school news which would cut down on the amount of little notes we need to pass to you during session time. We will produce paper copies for anyone who does not have e-mail.

Melanie will endeavour to speak to you all at the beginning of next term to find out your views.

## Fundraising

We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who helped make the Summer Fayre such a huge success. We are still waiting for the final figure raised by the pre-school but we think it was over £300 .

Do you have any good fundraising ideas? Are you able to help raise some money for pre-school? Please speak to a member of staff or the committee if you could think you can help.

## Early Years Entitlement News!! Early Years Entitlement News!!

As you are aware children are entitled to 12.5 hours of funding per week from Devon County Council. From September 2010 the amount of hours are going to increase to 15 per week so that parents can use their funding not only to cover sessions but also for lunches. When settings were advised of the forthcoming changes we were told that we could offer parents the opportunity to use their funding to cover lunches immediately, should we wish. At the time the committee discussed this and it was felt that as numbers were low it would not make financial sense. We have discussed the matter again at the recent committee meeting and it was felt that as numbers have risen we would be able to bring in the changes ahead of the deadline of September 2010. As the sessions are already set for next term and staffing levels etc. have been decided there is insufficient time to make changes for the Autumn Term (September 2009), so this new allowance will come into effect for the Spring Term 2010. Melanie will provide all parents who children are eligible for funding further information next term to explain how this change will effect them.

### Changeable Weather!!

Please can parents remember to bring their children into pre-school with suitable clothing and shoes so that we are able to play outside. The children can get upset if they do not have a coat when everyone else does.



### Illness

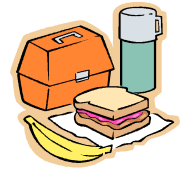
Unfortunately this term we have had our fair share of children suffering from different sickness bugs. We would like to remind parents that any child who has been sick or suffered from diarrhoea must not return to pre-school until 48 hours has passed since their last bout of sickness. We would appreciate it if your child is not able to come to pre-school due to illness that you telephone and let us know and that on your child's return you provide us with a note for our register.



### Lunch boxes

We would like to thank parents/carers for following our healthy eating policy by not putting sweets and chocolate in lunch boxes.

If you are putting oranges in lunchboxes can you please peel them and put them into a bag/box. We are happy to help children with wrappings etc. but it is very time consuming to peel 8 oranges and often we do not have sufficient time to eat our own lunches.



### Advertising

Do you have something to sell or a business to advertise? Would you like to book some space in the next newsletter? We will be asking for a small donation to help towards pre-school funds. If you would like to place an ad please speak to Melanie

**We need your help .....** The staff would like to produce, with the help of our parents a resource picture file for the children to use to help them choose activities/toys they would like to play with during the day. We need to photograph all our resources so that we can make a book which the children can access. Do you think you could spare us some time to help us with this???

Also, we thought that parents might like to have a say in how the money raised through fundraising is to be spent. We would like you to help compile a 'Wish List' of toys and equipment which we could purchase. If you have any ideas please speak to a member of staff and they will be able to direct to the list.