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## Newsletter February 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and All,

Wow this term is going to whizz past, being one of the shorter ones of the year, so here we are at the second half already!!!



Bradford  
children with  
the minibeast  
home that they  
made

We had a great first half term with lots of learning in both settings, based around animals - ranging from baking buns and biscuits, to clay animals; setting up our own vets surgery; and lots of messy explorations. Not forgetting the very popular dance sessions with Jess, which have proved to be a great success, with children asking when she is coming back!! The children have been busy and engaged, showing some amazing social interactions, cooperative play, and making links to their own experiences. Within both settings there are some great friendships being made, and many times staff are saying to each other "Wow look at that!" as we see the children do and say some amazing things.

### Committee Meeting

We are planning to have our next committee meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, and then our AGM is on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June. We are always looking for new members and this doesn't need to be as daunting as it sounds. As a member we would ask you to commit to attending 3 or 4 meetings a year (obviously there are times when people can't attend) and be available to help out at fundraising events. The staff may ask for support within pre-school such as washing blankets, dressing up clothes, cleaning toys or general sorting/maintenance. We may also ask you to sign some policies or other paperwork. As an officer, Chairman - you would be asked to lead the meetings (but with support from us all - ask Ellie!!); Secretary - take minutes, Treasurer - be a signatory on the online banking (authorising payments) and have a basic knowledge of the accounts (but Edwina does all of the paperwork). We also need to have a safeguarding member of the committee who completes the online training and is available should any situation arises (which we hope it wouldn't). The staff are always looking for support, so the more the committee wish to do the better!! You would also have access to free online training through the Pre-school Learning Alliance, which you may find interesting and useful in understanding a bit more about what goes on in pre-schools.

### World book Day

We thought it would be nice to invite the children to dress up this year and this can be as simple or complicated as you choose - ranging from a hat or a mask, to a full outfit!! We are suggesting that you might like to link it to stories based around animals, as this is what we have been looking at this term. We would also like to invite parents to stay when you drop your child off in the morning, to spend a short time looking at books and stories with them in the setting. Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March at Bradford and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Bridgerule.

### Survey

The answers received in your surveys last term were very useful and we are beginning to implement ideas from them, but may not be able to use all suggestions. As always if you have any other feedback or comments please speak to a member of staff at any time.

- Trips out are a repeated point of discussion on many occasions. We know the children love to visit different places but the challenge of getting them there within appropriate ratios and safely, without interfering with parents work, and at minimal cost is mammoth, particularly with the numbers of children we have. As a different experience for the children we are bringing people into the setting and will try and make use of the local environment where possible. We will however do our very best to ensure that we can get to the beach for our end of year fun, which will hopefully be a Wednesday in July.
- Communication books are a useful resource, but again are quite a challenge and take us away from our time with the children. With this in mind we are going to be using the white boards in each setting to tell you what we have been up to each day. We will keep the communication books and use them for specific occasional comments or a group photo/print out. Please continue to use them to tell us what your children have been up to at home. We would appreciate your comments on how you feel communication works with us.

### Bags 2 school

Don't forget the bags 2 school collection later on this term - on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Any bags from Bridgerule will need to be in pre-school before the end of Wednesday to allow us to get them over to Bradford in time for the collection.

### Dance sessions

These have been very popular and we still have some more to come this term. At Bradford it will be on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March and at Bridgerule on 16<sup>th</sup> March. We will be looking at possible dates for the future too.

### Animal Encounters

Thanks to Lisa Kepple for organising a visit from Chris Johnson with his animal encounters (including snakes, gecko and more) on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March (am Bradford, pm Bridgerule). If your child is not normally in pre-school for this session please speak to a member of staff about them attending.



Great turn taking  
and cooperation  
from Bridgerule  
children using the  
soft play steps

### Staffing

As you all know Fee has been on maternity leave since last May and at the time we were unable to recruit suitable cover staff so Claire and Sarah took it on. This was only ever going to be a temporary situation, but sadly Fee is not going to be returning to Pre-school in May. We are therefore going to be looking for a permanent replacement leader to work at Bradford. Claire and Sarah will support the new member of staff to ensure a smooth transition and we aim to keep up the strong links between both settings in the future.

### Diary dates

15<sup>th</sup> March - Bags 2 school collection

21<sup>st</sup> March - Animal Encounters

28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March - End of term

16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> April - Beginning of summer term

Any questions please speak to any member of staff.  
Bridgerule and Bradford pre-school Teams