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## Newsletter April 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and All,

Welcome back to the Summer Term. It is usually a busy term so be prepared!! Firstly a warm welcome to Brooke who has joined us at the Bridgerule setting this term, and Felicity who has joined Bradford.

Hopefully there will be lots of nice weather so please ensure your children come to pre-school dressed appropriately and with sunhats and suncream - if you want them to have a specific one, otherwise we will use the pre-school suncream. Please also be aware that it is sometimes still a bit chilly when we first go out in the mornings so they will need a jumper/light coat.

### Fundraising

Thank you to all those that have sent back their Smarties tubes already. If you haven't, then please get them in by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May** and we will count them up to see who will win the prize for the child that collected the most!!

Thank you also to those who gave to the bags to school collection in March where a total of £100 was raised. The next collection will be on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Prior to that we will be holding a clothes swap in Bridgerule Village Hall, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May, so start sorting out your cupboards!! Please look out for posters around the settings.

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June we have the coffee morning in at Holsworthy Memorial Hall, which is usually a great fundraiser for us. We will be looking for support with this in the form of donations of cakes, biscuits, buns, small savoury items and raffle prizes; but also helpers on the day to organise and support the running of the morning.

### Pre-school Sessions

Obviously in September there will be changes at the pre-schools, as we send our next lot of children off to school, so if anybody would like to change or increase their child's sessions please let us know asap so that we can get them booked in as we have already had some enquiries for September from new children.

Please see the government's new website, which provides information about the new Tax Free Childcare & 30 Hours Free Childcare - <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

### Sarah's Memorial

Over the next week, at Bradford, you will see the "Look-Out Tree" just outside the pre-school garden, this has been created from the money donated in Sarah's memory. We are sure the children will enjoy many hours of fun with it and we as staff and parents will remember all the hard work Sarah put into the pre-schools. **The memorial will be officially opened on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm;** please do come along if you can, and see the children exploring it.

### Staffing

As you are all aware Fee (our Bradford Leader) is due to be going off on her maternity leave in the next few weeks and we have been advertising for a replacement to cover her leave. Unfortunately we have been unable to find a candidate of the calibre that we are wanting, to continue the great work of the pre-school. Therefore Claire and Sarah (Leader and Assistant at Bridgerule) will be taking over the running of the Bradford setting and working there every Tuesday and Thursday. Hayley and Lucy will continue to cover the Wednesday session at Bradford. Both Sarah and Claire have spent a lot of time at Bradford in the past, so are fully aware of the setting and children will already know them both. If you have any questions with regards to this please speak to a member of staff.

We have also recruited Kerry Powell as a new member of bank staff to offer some cover at both settings. She is level 3 qualified and will bring much experience of all ages.

### Non-attendance

If your child is not going to be attending their usual session, please could you ensure that you inform the pre-school staff as early as possible either by phone call, text or a verbal message. The staff arrange activities around times of the children attending so it is important to the smooth running of the day, that they know who is going to be in.

Bridgerule can be contacted on 07879 955874 and Bradford on 07792501476.



### At Bridgerule

We have begun looking at Transport this term; and the children have enjoyed getting (very) messy creating their hot air balloons, and exploring the boats in the water tray, where we were tying them to the jetty and 'throwing out the anchor!! We have been doing lots of transport singing with some crazy actions and new verses created by the children, including rowing our boat to find a cat!!! We love observing and discussing the wide variety of vehicles we see go past pre-school.

### At Bradford

To start this term we have had an exciting topic of space. Many thanks to those of you who have brought things in to show us linked to our topic - the children have loved showing their peers and it has led to many questions and investigations. We have already made a space rocket out of our dark tent (please come in and take a peak), moon pictures, moon sand and created moon buggies. Next week will be filled with planets! We look forward to a fun rest of term following the children's interests - who knows what will be next! Sadly Fee will be leaving a little earlier than planned - on 11<sup>th</sup> May (as mentioned above in staffing changes).

### Communication books - Bridgerule

Following the responses we had to our communication questionnaire and due to the increase in numbers at every session we will now be changing the amount of times we write in your child's book. Every book will be written in at least once a week. We will continue with verbally communicating with you every day, and if you have any problems or queries with this, then please speak to Claire or Sarah. This is purely so that we can spend more of our time playing with and supporting the learning of your children, as we were finding writing in all of the books was taking us away from this.

### AGM

Our AGM is creeping closer, being on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm and we need your support. The pre-schools can only run successfully with a supportive committee behind them (Thank you to this year's members), and we are always looking for new members. Being on the committee involves coming along to approximately one meeting a term, completing an online form for Ofsted and helping out with fundraising events. Please speak to a member of staff or any current committee member if you have any questions, but we would love to see some of you there. Without a full committee the pre-schools will have to shut.

### Dates for your Diary

Clothes Swap - Bridgerule Village Hall - 27<sup>th</sup> May

Half term - 29<sup>th</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Memorial Hall Coffee Morning -21<sup>st</sup> June

AGM - 28<sup>th</sup> June

Bags 2 School collection - 28<sup>th</sup> June - please encourage friends and family to have a sort out!!!!

We wish Fee all the best as she heads off on her maternity leave, and look forward to hearing her exciting news - **BOY** or **GIRL**?!?!

As always any questions, please speak to a member of staff.

Regards  
Pre-school Team