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Newsletter November 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and All,

So the first half of the autumn term flew past and the second half will be no different. There is lots going on so please take a look at the diary dates in the newsletter to make sure you don't miss anything! So far this term we have welcomed Rosaleigha, Layla and Joseph to Bridgerule and Leah and Thomas to Bradford. Also congratulations to Miles and his family on the safe arrival of baby Arlo.

You will have all received your invoices for the term and we ask that they are paid in full by 2nd December unless you already have a payment plan set up. If you wish to set up a plan the bank details are on your invoice or speak to Claire or Fee.

Big thank you for all the contributions to bags 2school. The latest collection raised £148, and the next collection date is 14th March 2017. Mention to family, friends, neighbours and colleagues - we have plenty of spare bags in both settings. Bags can be stored at pre-school prior to collection if needed.

Please can we ask that all children bring a coat to pre-school at all times, as it does get chilly in the outside areas. Wellies would also be useful as we like to go out splashing in the puddles!! We have a few spare pairs at pre-school but limited sizes!!

We are going to be holding a fancy dress day at pre-schools and ask that the children may like to come in dressed in a costume of their choice, at the cost of £1 (which will be used to purchase some items for the bingo night - see later section of newsletter). We will be doing some fun and games with the children at the fancy dress day. For Bridgerule children it will be Friday 19th November and for Bradford children it will be Thursday 1st December.

We have had a busy few weeks in the preschools including visits from the Holsworthy Neighbourhood Police team to both settings



Bridgerule News

The Bridgerule children loved their visit from PCSO's Mark and Emma, exploring the van and equipment; as well as confidently answering questions and making comments. Ask your child who wanted to be shut in the cage!!! We also enjoyed creating Rangoli patterns and Diva lamps with Amelia's mum whilst learning a bit more about Diwali. The children are obviously loving fireworks and have been creating bonfires with our natural resources so prepare for some colourful creations. Who knows where the next few weeks will take us before we move into Christmas fun and games!!

Mud Kitchen Bridgerule - Is there anyone out there who would be willing (or know someone) to give our mud kitchen a bit of love. We need the wood underneath replacing to make some better shelves and would like to make the whole thing a bit more attractive and kitchen like!!! Ideas and your time gratefully received!!

Bradford News

We've had a exciting few weeks with a visit from the Police and Fire service. The children really enjoyed this visit - which involved a talk on road safety and exploring the walkie talkies and police car. The children showed a strong interest after this visit and we are now currently exploring the topic of Fire/Fire Safety with a Fire Station role play area. We then look forward to getting in to the Festive Spirit towards the end of term. We have a trip to Rosemoor Gardens coming up (see diary dates) please inform a member of staff if you are available for transporting and helping.



Upcoming Fundraising Events

Our next fundraising event is probably one of the biggest of the year - Our Christmas Bingo!! This is being held at Bradford Village Hall Doors open 6.30pm, for eyes down at 7.30pm. There is prizes for 1 line, 2 lines and a chicken dinner hamper for the full house. There will be a raffle on the night with some amazing prizes including tickets to Exeter races, 'At' Bristol, Exeter football, Exeter Chiefs rugby, Eden Project, Theatre Royal to see Snow White, Funderzone and many more. If anyone has any raffle prizes that they would like to donate or know a business that might then please speak to a member of staff.

There will be refreshments on sale and is usually a really fun evening so please support this event and bring along family and friends. This is raising funds to keep the pre-schools running and well equipped - without your support we can't do this!!

We have some regular fundraisers going on throughout the year, which include:

Ink cartridges - We are collecting used ink cartridges in each setting to recycle & raise funds for our pre-schools. Please look at the boxes located in both pre-schools to see which cartridges are able to be recycled.

Easy Fundraising - When shopping online go through this site and register to support Bradford Pre-school, then a percentage of your sales goes to the pre-school, at no extra cost to yourself! We raised £28 from April to June.

Bags 2 School - We have 3 collections during the year, but bags can be gathered at either pre-school at any time.

The committee works hard to plan and organise these events and they are to help keep the pre-schools running. Without fundraising it wouldn't be possible, so please support these events and encourage family and friends to come along too. Donations from yourselves are essential at these events, but also if anyone knows any company/business/individual that would be prepared to donate anything small or large please speak to a member of the committee.

Dates for your diaries

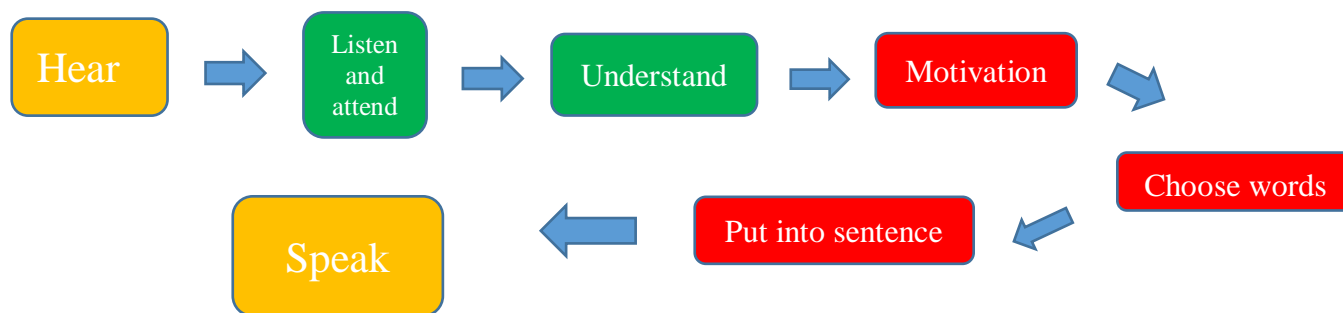
- Friday 19th November - Fancy dress day Bridgerule
- Monday 21st November (week commencing) - Key person meetings Bridgerule.
- Wednesday 23rd November - Bradford trip to Rosemoor Gardens
- Monday 29th November (week commencing) - Key person meetings Bradford - please fill in times on sheet.
- Thursday 1st December - Fancy dress day Bradford
- Saturday 3rd December - Christmas Bingo
- Wednesday 14th December - Christmas Party Bridgerule and Bradford - parents invited in from 2.30pm for cuppa and mince pie!
- Thursday 15th December - Last day of term Bradford
- Friday 16th December - Last day of term Bridgerule
- Wednesday 4th January - Return to pre-school - Bridgerule
- Tuesday 10th January - Return to pre-school - Bradford

Other Information

We recently went on some very interesting training called 'Let's Talk More' which is an initiative to identify and support children at risk of communication, speech and language difficulties. It was about the massive impact communication as a whole, not just speech, has on a child's overall development including cognitive, emotional and social development as well as general well-being. The program screens children between the age of 2yrs and 2yrs 11 months that have been identified as needing support and then inputs strategies for parents and professionals to work on which, in a lot of cases, give the child the support needed to improve without having to be referred to speech therapy.

We just want to share a couple of points that we found very thought provoking.

- A child who lives in a house that constantly has a radio or TV on gets used to hearing talking voices/noise all the time so when you then speak to them they think it's just that normal noise so don't respond. Try and give them at least 15 minutes with no background noise.
- When we say something to a child this is the process they have to go through so we need to make sure we give them the time to fulfil this process



- The impact of prolonged use of bottles and dummies can result in infantile swallowing patterns and lack of development in the muscles in and around the mouth that are needed to form words within speech

We are planning to post some more information in the settings soon. If you feel your child would benefit from support or you would like to know more then please speak to a member of staff.

Some basic reminders to everybody to help promote good communication development would be;

- Be face to face with your child
- Switch off technology and talk
- Try not to have noise or other distractions in the background
- Always respond to your child when they try to communicate with you (even if it's just a touch to begin with if you are talking).

Regards
Pre-school team