

Colwinston Preschool

Croeso cynnes i bawb! A warm welcome to everyone!

We are looking forward to a term filled with colour and emotions in our new topic 'Flyaway Katie'

Help Needed!

Do you have gardening expertise or a few hours to spare to help us tidy up our garden? We have a lovely Preschool garden behind the village hall and have developed its use during all Preschool sessions BUT it is desperately in need of tidying up. Many people from Colwinston enjoy the garden and it would be good to make the most of this outdoor space. Please see Sarah, if you can help or know someone who can.

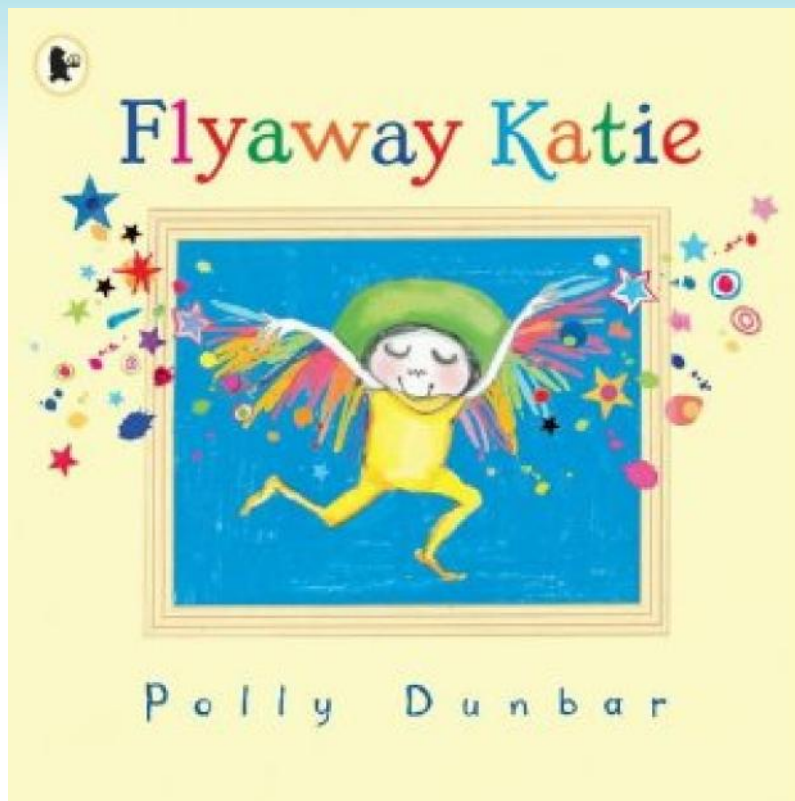
Preschool Half Term Dates

03/09/2012 – 26/10/2012

Half Term

29/10/12 – 2/10/12

Sessions are from 9am – 12pm



This half term we will be reading the story of Flyaway Katie. Katie is a little girl who is feeling all grey and out of sorts because her friends have gone away. The colourful picture on her wall begins to cheer her up and she adds colour to herself so that she can whoosh into the picture.

Save the Date!

Harvest Festival

10/10/2012

We will be attending a Preschool service in the Church.

Committee

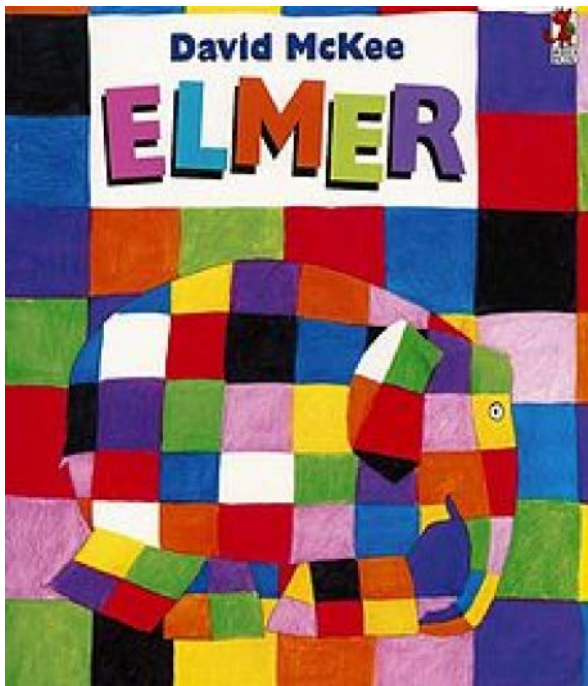
AGM

Please come to the Preschool AGM to support us in setting up a new committee - DTBC

Photos

19/10/2012

Gemma Griffiths will offer preschool families the opportunity for an individual photo



An Elmer Party

To celebrate both the end of the half term and the end of our topic we will be holding an Elmer Rainbow Colour Party on Monday the 22nd of October. Please could children come to Preschool in rainbow colours and bring colourful fruit or vegetables for a special snack time. Families and carers are welcome to join us at 11.45 for a colourful song time.

Staff

During the summer holidays Meinir Williams moved to Angelsey with her family. We wish her all the best in her new adventure and thank her for her hard work over the past four years.

Sarah Wiggin (BA Early Years Education) continues in her role as Preschool Play Leader and co-ordinates health and safety and the development of the Preschool. Karen Franks (NVQ 3 Childcare and Education) is now the Deputy Play Leader and will continue in her role as Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator. Sian Thomas (NVQ 2 Childcare and Education) continues in her role as preschool assistant and will co-ordinate our healthy and sustainable preschool development. Gemma Griffiths, preschool assistant and photographer, will increase her working hours to be with us four mornings. We are looking to recruit a 5th member of staff. We also provide a student placement for one person studying childcare and education at Bridgend College.

Thank you for all your contributions to our snack menu!

Our Snack time routine has changed slightly so that we can promote healthy eating and allow the children sufficient time to eat in their key person groups. We intend to inform families of our weekly menu choices at the beginning of the half term. Unfortunately, the village hall has been undergoing some refurbishments and we have not been able to use the oven. We have made both mango dips and avocado dips and replaced bread sticks with bread made in the bread machine. The children have been involved in creating these snacks and have been exploring the inside and outside of fruits and vegetables.

Group circle-time - Children wash their hands with their key person – Children sit at tables with their key person and we say a daily prayer to say thank you for the food and the world around us – The children have time to talk with their friends in their group and explore the variety of healthy snack foods – The children have water or milk to drink – The children clean their teeth then return to activities

Planning for a Purpose Scholastic, 2012

Planning is part of our whole approach as practitioners and as an early years setting. It is about:

- Knowing our local community and the general interests of the children who come to our setting, so that everyone can be included
- Using our knowledge of child development and understanding of how young children learn to plan and resource an effective enabling environment for them
- Setting up a variety of everyday routines as the children start in the setting, and establishing key person positive relationships
- Making sure that we are meeting the needs of the children and helping them to

progress through ongoing observational assessment



The observation, assessment and planning cycle To ensure that all the children are making good progress, and to spot and remove any barriers to learning and development, all practitioners need to undertake this cycle. As a key person we 'Look, listen and note' all through the day. The child will show us something new and exciting – something we want to capture to enable us to share and celebrate with the child and their families. We may use the digital camera, make a short dated note or keep a copy of a drawing or some mark making. This will also be important information to help us look at the future learning for the child and any areas of priority.

Becoming active listeners Practitioners often experience a great tension between their desire to allow children to play and explore outdoors and their need to satisfy the demands of the curriculum. Adopting a holistic approach to long-term planning by working with the seasons, allows us to cover all areas of the curriculum during the year, placing a different emphasis on learning each week or month, as well as ensuring space for spontaneous activity and child-initiated learning. Adopting a non-directive way of working allows social, emotional and cognitive development to occur simultaneously in children's active learning and helps them to feel there is real value in their own experiences. An 'extended' style of teaching using observation and active listening, creates a truly child-centred approach. This is especially valuable to a key person who can develop a deeper understanding of the children in their care by asking certain questions: *What motivates this child? What choices do they make? What problem is this child trying to solve? How can I facilitate their problem-solving? What is my child's question? What progression is there in their learning?*

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering in the Preschool or on the Preschool's parent-led committee. There are many opportunities including treasurer, reading with children, workshops on specialist subjects with staff, chairing meetings, writing grant applications, finding resources, accompanying us on visits.....