



Registered charity No; 1035144
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NEWSLETTER

JULY 2005

Dear Parents,

This is the final newsletter for this school year and we hope it has been a successful year for all of you. We have certainly been very busy behind the scenes and have a dedicated team of staff and a small but extremely hardworking committee to take us forward into next year.

Future of the committee/pre-school – our Chair Jane Platt has sent you, by separate letter, details of our committee make up and proposals for taking the committee/pre-school forward into next year. Please give it your full attention, as your response will determine the future of the pre-school.

We will be saying goodbye to 22 of our children who will be starting school in September and hope that they have enjoyed their time at St Michael's. We wish them well and trust they go on to make lots of new friends, work hard and enjoy their new schools.

We recently said a temporary farewell to Denise who has left us on maternity leave. We all send her our best wishes for her forthcoming happy event and will keep you posted on how she is doing. We would like to welcome Tina who will be providing maternity cover whilst Denise is off.

The theme for the final term was our homes, animal homes and recent activities have included making books, etc. We have also seen the start of a very successful luncheon club to prepare the older children for school life, so thanks to everyone who has helped.

Forthcoming Events

Events due to take place before the end of term are as follows:

- 19th July 2005
Our annual Teddy Bears Picnic will take place at the 'rubber park' this year. Parents are asked to volunteer to help escort the children to the park on the day and will be welcome to stay for the picnic. Children should be brought to pre-school as usual and are asked to bring their favourite Teddy. Please provide a small blanket or plastic sheet for your child to sit on and a picnic lunch in a plastic bag, clearly marked with their name (no chocolate please). We will provide drinks for the children. A donation of £1.00 per teddy brought along would be appreciated. Don't forget to collect your child directly from the park at 12.00 noon.
- 20th July 2005
Leavers ceremony – parents of those children leaving the pre-school this July have been invited in to attend their leaving ceremony at pre-school from 11.30-12.00. We would like to thank these parents for all of your support shown to staff and committee members and wish you well for the future.

Future events to include:

- 29th August 2005
Wilmington Village Fete – although we are not going to be hosting a stall this year we are all encouraged to support the village fete and hope to catch up with you all there.
- 5th September 2005
Start of term at pre-school
- 16th September 2005
Welcome meeting for new parents due to take place in the parish centre from 11.30-12.00. All staff, committee members and parents are invited to attend.
- 1st October 2005
Provisional date for Grand opening of our Outside Play Area and Table Top Sale – please keep your diaries clear

Fund Raising

Our recent sponsored event raised nearly £400 and we have received additional monies from key ring sales. We have received approx 2000 Sainsbury's vouchers and staff are in the process of finalising numbers and placing orders for sports equipment as a result. Many thanks to everyone who has helped us raise funds and there is still time to get any additional vouchers in as the deadline is 19th July.

You can see from our diary that we plan to run hold a grand opening for the outside play area on 1st October and invite all the contributors, pre-school children past and present to attend. We thought this would be an ideal opportunity to raise funds for the pre-school,

specifically the children's Christmas party, so intend to hold a **'Table Top Sale'** of children's clothes, toys, books, videos, kids bric-a-brac to take place on the day. We are also hoping to hold a raffle on the day so we are looking to parents to provide raffle prizes and items for the sale. It's a great opportunity to have a good clear-out during the summer holidays and bring items along at the start of the new term when staff will be collecting items.

Pre-School Emergency Volunteers

We would always like to be in the position of having a pool of willing volunteers who would be able to step in at short notice to provide additional cover should we be short-staffed on any given day. If you would be willing to have your name added to our list please inform Jill Tomlinson.

Play area

We are pleased to announce that work is due to start on our outside play area on 18th July. As you may know this has taken a lot of hard work on the part of a few dedicated parents who formed their own special committee to see the project through so we look forward to being able to welcome all the children to enjoy the new facilities shortly and thank those parents for all their efforts.

Additional Software for Computer

We are looking to purchase some additional pre-school software for use on the computer and would welcome any suggestions from parents who may be able to make personal recommendations. If you have any ideas or are able to give a couple of hours to help the children on the computer, please speak to Jill Tomlinson.

Finally, we would all like to say a big thank-you to Dian Stewart who is leaving the committee. Dian has been the Secretary of the committee for some time and resigned her post at the last AGM. Also, a special thank you goes to Simon and Mandi who have stepped down from the main committee but continue to their involvement on the play area committee.

Janina Villalta (secretary)

On behalf of St Michael's Pre-school staff and committee