



Cowling Pre-school and toddlers

Newsletter autumn term 1

A warm welcome to all new parents and children joining Cowling Pre School this term, we also welcome back our existing children who are now our big boys and girls! All children are settling in really well into their new routines. We look forward to getting to know all their personalities and watching them grow and flourish at Cowling Pre-school.

Routine

Many of you may have noticed in the entrance hall we have a self - registration board, this is to encourage children to recognise their picture cards with their names, as children progress through pre school their picture will be removed, to enable name recognition. We will be re-introducing our library, which will be held on different days of the week, when it is library day, your child is welcome to choose a book of their choice, which they can keep until the next library day. This will start next week on Monday.

Children are offered a piece of fruit and a drink of milk/water each day as their snack, we do have a donation box, we kindly ask parents to contribute 20p a day towards this, this can either be added to the donation box, or if you would prefer to pay half termly via bacs, please add your child's name and the word 'SNACK' as a reference.

Lunches

Children do not need to bring their own water bottles into Pre-school as all children have their own water bottles in the setting which we provide, these are emptied and washed daily, children will only be offered water throughout the day, we can not allow children to have juice in their water bottles, however children can have juice with their lunch, if parents wish, this should be packed in their lunch boxes.

We do ask that children's lunch boxes are as nutritionally balanced as possible, here is an example of a standard lunchbox

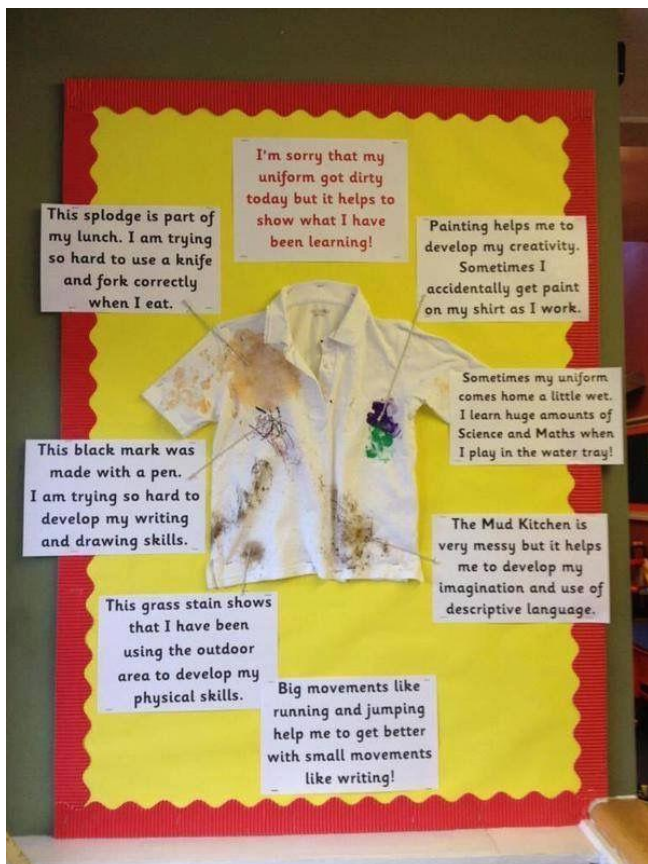
- Sandwich/wrap/ warm food in flask (we can not warm food up)
- A piece of fruit/ vegetables
- Yoghurt
- Breadsticks/crisps
- Cereal bar or alternative

We do ask that the sugar content in children's lunchboxes is kept as low as possible. Whilst we understand some of our children are still very young, we are a pre-school setting, with the ambition of preparing children for the next

step to school, therefore we do encourage independence. Obviously, we will never leave a child to struggle, adults will always be available to help although we do ask that lunch boxes are as child friendly as possible i.e., using tubs instead of packaging, therefore children can try to do things for themselves.

Uniform

Most of you may be aware we have our own uniform, this is a Jumper, T Shirt, and a book bag these are available to order, order forms are on the table outside the preschool room. Uniform was introduced at preschool primarily to avoid children ruining their own clothes when participating in messy play. We find that by stopping play, this can easily distract children from their initial goal. Therefore, having a uniform stops children's own clothing from being ruined.



Invoices

Invoices are issued within two weeks of each half term, these are expected to be paid within 14 days, outstanding fees will result in your child's place being suspended until payment is received. Should any amendments need to be made once invoices have been issued this will be done on the next half terms invoice.

Staffing

Most of you will by now know who your child's key worker is, however if you are unsure, please speak to a member of staff. Unfortunately, we will be saying goodbye to Jessica in October, Jessica will be moving to a setting closer to home, we wish Jessica all the best in her new role. We are currently in the process of recruiting and will let you know shortly who will be replacing Jessica.

Observations

We currently use an online learning journal, to track children's development, this is called Tapestry many of you will already be signed up by now. All children in the setting will be tracked at least once every half term, this effectively means rather than just one key worker observing a child, each week key workers choose one of their key children to track, which involves all key staff in the room observe, track, plan and implement activities to develop that child in a chosen area. This effectively means your child's development

and needs are being closely monitored by all staff in the room. We find this helps all staff in the room have a good understanding of all children's needs and interests. Therefore, we ask parents to not be alarmed if you do not see observations on tapestry, it just means your child has not been tracked yet, however we ask parents to participate in Tapestry, so please feel free to add any developmental news or even just pictures of fabulous things your child has been doing.

Clothing

Please can we ask children come to Pre school in appropriate clothing for the weather, we do go on walks around the village as well as playing outside, therefore as the weather starts to turn colder, please ensure children bring a labelled coat and appropriate footwear. We also ask children bring spare clothes in their bags in case of any accidents whilst in Pre-School.

Activities and dates to remember

Our theme at the moment is AUTUMN, children will be taking part in various autumn themed activities, such as baking, making autumnal animal masks and stained-glass leaves, along with lots of other themed activities. We will also be concentrating on getting to know all our new children and their families, if you would like to bring in a family photo in which we can use on our display board this would be fantastic! This year for our scarecrow hunt around the village we have decided to incorporate it alongside Halloween, if any families would love to take part in this at home, please let us know!

Our annual Halloween party will be held on Friday 21st October 5.30pm-6.30pm

Children and their families can come along and enjoy some spooky fun! There will be party food and a prize for the best dressed! Tickets will be sold at £5 per family (this price allows us to cover cost of food and raise a small amount to go towards Pre School fundraising) tickets will be available in the next coming weeks, if you would like one, please ask a member of staff!

Please remember should you have any queries or concerns, we have an open door policy so you are welcomed to come and speak to us whenever you feel the need. Should you need to contact the Pre-school during opening hours please call the landline which is: 01535 635068 we also have a nursery mobile which is 07483127916 Alternatively we also have ClassDojo where you can message if it is outside of Pre-school hours.