

Southdown Methodist



Pre-School

January 2019

Happy New Year to you all!

Welcome back and a warm welcome to all those children, parents and carers joining pre-school this term.

This half term our main topic will be **Nature and the Natural Environment:**

Week commencing	Topic/s	Colour of the week
7th January	In the woods	Brown
14th January	In the woods	Green
21st January	Jungle	Yellow
28th January	Cold Places	White
4th February	Under the Sea	Blue
11th February	Under the Sea	Silver

Please be aware that we always encourage child initiated play and learning and follow the children's ideas or interests. Therefore, this may take us away from the planned topics or activities.

Each day we will offer a craft activity, generally linked to the topic of the week, but children are also encouraged to investigate the wide selection of resources available. Therefore, items made on the craft table will often vary and reflect the children's interests, preferences and exploration of the available resources.

Craft activities can get messy and whilst we do encourage the children to wear aprons we cannot guarantee that items of clothing will remain clean. Please encourage your child to wear clothing that is not too special and allows them freedom of movement.

IMPORTANT ALLERGY INFORMATION

We currently have a child attending the setting who has a severe allergy to **sesame** which has the potential to cause an anaphylactic reaction.

Anaphylaxis is a **severe allergic reaction** that occurs rapidly and causes a life-threatening response involving the whole body.

For this child the allergic reaction can be triggered by sesame in their environment. We would therefore like to request that children attending the setting do not arrive in the mornings eating anything that contains sesame. If your child has had a product containing sesame for breakfast could you please insure that they have washed their hands and face and do not have any traces of the product on their clothing.

Many thanks for your consideration regarding this matter.

Southdown Methodist Pre-School
130a Southdown Road, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 1PU
Tel - 07908 121891, Email - southdownmethodistpreschool@gmail.com

COFFEE MORNING - FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY 9.15 am

Everyone is welcome, even if your child does not usually attend on a Friday they will be more than welcome to join us in the setting whilst you are having a tea or coffee. We do ask that you remain on the premises if your child does not normally attend on this day of the week.

Coffee Mornings are an opportunity for you to look at your child's Learning Journal, however if you are not able to attend you are welcome to ask your child's key-worker to see their Learning Journal at any other time.

PRE-EXISTING INJURIES FORM

Please be aware that as part of the pre-school's safeguarding obligations it has been recommended to us that we ask all parents / carers to inform us of pre-existing injuries. If your child arrives at pre-school with an injury that has occurred outside of the setting we would be grateful if you could record this injury and how it occurred on a 'Pre-existing Injury Form' which are located in the reception area. We thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

SHOW AND TELL ITEMS

PLEASE label any items your child brings from home to show at the beginning of the session and avoid bringing anything valuable or precious. We try to encourage a link to the topic or colour of the week. However if a particular item will help your child come to pre-school confidently then that is fine.

LABELLING

PLEASE remember to label your child's bag, coat and anything else they may want to bring in. A clear label on the strap or a tag of their bag makes things much easier for us when a child's nappy or clothing needs to be changed, or at home time when we are putting out the coats and bags. We do plan to go to the allotment throughout the coming months so please make sure your child has clothing suitable for outdoors, muddy activities and that all items are named. Thank you.

WELLIES

If the weather is wet and your child is wearing wellies to pre-school please ensure that you bring a pair of shoes or plimsols for them to change into during the morning. Not only does this reduce the amount of mud brought into the hall but it also means they can safely use the climbing and balancing equipment.

ALLOTMENT

We hope not to be just fair-weather friends of the allotment and would like to continue visiting during the winter months. We can only go to the allotment if we have a parent helper so please help us if you can. Trips to the allotment depart after registration at approximately 09:30 and can be as long or short as you can accommodate. We usually find that a round trip of one hour is enough for most children but if you can offer more or less time we would welcome your support.

We hope to offer every child frequent opportunities to visit the allotment. The group of children visiting on a particular day is selected on a rota basis. Please be aware that if you do offer to help, your child may not be part of the group on that day. We really appreciate all your support and the children always thoroughly enjoy the trips. If you are able to help please sign up on the 'Allotment Parent Helper Rota' located in the reception area.

SNOWY WEATHER

As the weather becomes colder we would like to remind you that in the event of snow we will endeavour to open the pre-school. Our decision to open or close is not linked to any of the local schools or nurseries. In the event of extreme weather conditions or exceptional circumstances the safety of the children, parents and staff will always come first. This may be at short notice. In such a rare event we will take steps to inform all parents/carers by text or email. We would also encourage you to refer to our website at www.southdownmethodistpreschool.com which will be updated regularly in these circumstances.

LIBRARY BOOKS

We continue to have the library box of books available for you borrow and share with your child. Please remember to mark in the 'Library Log' when you take and return a book. We hope you enjoy and make use of this resource.

HELPING

Helping at pre-school is great fun. It is a perfect opportunity to see what your child gets up to and an extra pair of hands is always a help to us. Once your child has settled please sign up if you can on the 'Parent Helper Rota' located in the reception area

HOMETIME PROCEDURE

Please remember to inform a member of staff and sign the 'Going Home Book' if someone we have not met before is picking up your child.

HELPER OF THE DAY

Each day we have a child 'helper of the day'. All of the children will get a turn to be the helper and are given the opportunity to complete small, manageable, but important tasks throughout the morning. The helper of the day will also bring home 'Doug the Dog' for an overnight visit. Doug comes with a book that you can record his visit in. This is very much meant to be an enjoyable experience and not "homework". You can include photos and or notes but please do not feel obliged to do either.

ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

Please notify us in advance, or on the day, if your child is going to be absent from one or more pre-school sessions. In the case of illness please keep your child at home for 48 hours after their last bout of illness. Sickness and diarrhoea can spread very quickly so we would appreciate everyone following these procedures.

SNACK TIME

Thank you very much for your contributions towards our daily snack.

CONTACT WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

If you have an interest, hobby, skill or event of cultural significance that you would like and be willing to share with the pre-school children please talk to a member of staff. We welcome any input and thoroughly enjoy having visitors.

AND FINALLY:

We always try to make ourselves available to talk to you but this is not always possible first thing in the morning as settling the children is our main priority. If you need to tell us something urgently then we will always make time for you but otherwise it is more convenient for members of staff to talk at the end of the session when we have more time. If the subject is of a private or confidential nature please let us know and we can make the office available for conversation.

If you have any concerns please share them with us. We are here to help and to make this a positive experience for everyone.

Many thanks

Jo Trussler