

## Phase Newsletter

### September 2024

#### Welcome to the Autumn term!

Welcome to the first Preschool Newsletter of the new academic year, we hope you find the information useful. The Preschool team is looking forward to the coming half term. We have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned, a thoughtfully designed curriculum, a beautiful, calming learning environment, and a team that cannot wait to meet your very important little people again to share the children's' first weeks at school. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or suggestions.

#### What are we learning about?



During the first few weeks we will be focussing on getting to know each child and our curriculum focus is called 'what about us?'. Home visits help us to begin the process of getting to know your unique child. We greatly value your insights as parents and we appreciate speaking with you.

These meetings offer us a great opportunity to start building a partnership with you for the benefit of your child in their learning. The team then move on to work and play with the children to make solid attachments, forming respectful relationships, teaching them about their emotions and finding out more about themselves .

If you haven't booked a home visit, we have a transition form that we will need you to complete. Please see a member of the team. Also please provide a family photo for us to put up on our wall, this will be a talking point and a way to soothe your child.

We spend a great deal of time in these first weeks helping children to settle into school and learn some of the skills, rules and routines that they will require over the coming year, with the help of Lola Leopard. Lola Leopard guides the children to be good role-models in their very important work and play, by good looking/ listening and sitting, by being respectful.

#### Please label EVERYTHING!



We make every effort in school to care for your child's clothing. Children are encouraged to wear aprons and we will change children who get very wet or have an accident. Unfortunately, items of clothing do get forgotten, left in different areas or put on the wrong peg or bag.

Please help us to help your child. If all clothing and personal items such as bags, water bottles and shoes are labelled we have a very good success rate of reuniting them with their owners. Sadly, items that are not named have in the past proved very difficult or impossible to track down.

## A Church of England Academy

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# The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

## Spare clothes for accidents



We are sensitive to the fact that all children have toilet accidents, especially when transitioning from nappies to underwear. We are here to support them and you in this, therefore it is essential that all children have a change of clothes and at least two spare sets of underwear in their school bag so we can change them into their own clothes.

## Illness



Please phone to let our attendance team know if your child will not be in school due to illness. The team is also happy to answer your questions and confirm how long your child should be kept at home to prevent infection spreading to other children and staff.

## Water bottles



Children are offered snack (fruit and vegetable, a carb snack, and a drink of milk or water) every session. Children are also encouraged to keep hydrated throughout the day, so a named water bottle can be brought in and placed on the snack table in the mornings. Children will have free access to this as required. Could we also remind you that the water bottle should contain WATER and ideally not other liquid such as juice.

## Outdoor clothing



We use the outside learning environment on a daily basis, as it is part of our EYFS curriculum (whatever the weather!) Please can you ensure that your child comes to school suitably dressed. Your child needs sensible shoes and a coat daily. Even if the weather looks fine at 8.30a.m in the morning, it does change so quickly, and children are outside for learning and play, for the majority of the day. Once the winter weather begins, please supply NAMED gloves, hat, scarf, and wellingtons (Children will also need their school shoes to change into if wearing wellingtons to school).

## NO Nuts



Please be aware that we are a nut free school. This means NO NUTS, SESAME OR NUT/SESAME PRODUCTS should be brought into school. We have staff and children in the school who will need hospital attention if they come into contact with nuts, sesame or nut/sesame products such as peanut butter, chocolate spread, hummus etc. We really appreciate your help in keeping everybody safe.

## Lunch Club and Breakfast club

One your child had started their full session, you can book your child onto our lunch and breakfast club,

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using the School Gateway app. Any queries regarding this, please contact Ms Hastings  
[avapreschool@theacademy.me](mailto:avapreschool@theacademy.me)

It is £6.50 per session (11.30-12 30pm). Lunch club requires you to provide a healthy packed lunch for your child, and breakfast club (8.00-8.30am), will provide breakfast items, such as, cereal, toast, milk, fruit juice, yoghurt, fruit.

## Staying safe



Please could we remind parents to remain vigilant when coming to drop off or when collecting your child. Please speak with your child about the busy road outside school and for safety reasons we ask parents not to allow children to play unsupervised on the school grounds and in the carpark.



Finally, we recommend reading the weekly newsletter from Mrs Baughan, our Primary Headteacher, which contains useful information and updates about what is happening in school. We really look forward to working with you to make your child's time in Preschool, a happy and memorable time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email the school office and these will be forwarded to the class teacher or myself.

**Mrs Clark**  
EYFS Phase Leader

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