

Welcome back to all our returning families and children, and a warm welcome to all our new families and their children who are joining St Mary's this term.



We like to send a newsletter out at the beginning of each term, full hopefully with lots of information, news and reminders. In addition to this we like to share our half termly planning sheet with you (see last page), so you are aware of what your child will be exploring and focusing on, in order for you to share, contribute, and add to their learning journey. We welcome any ideas/suggestions from parents, so please just speak to any member of staff, or send an email with your thoughts (southholmwood@btinternet.com) Please remember you can add your own experiences from home via your child's Tapestry account.

FEES

Invoices for non-funded session fees, funded snack fee, 'lunch club' and/or 'early drop-off' service are sent out during the first few weeks of each half term.

We please ask that all invoices be paid promptly and within the time period stated on the invoice. Please speak to Louise Harrington if you have any queries or questions, or payment problems.

NAMED POSSESSIONS

Please ensure that you clearly name **ALL** your child's clothing, lunch bag, water bottle, and any other possessions that come into our Setting. Items which we are unable to identify will go into Lost Property, which will be available to browse through each half-term, or please email us if you are missing an item. Don't forget wellington boots too please as we like to make as any trips to our forest school as we can.

LUNCH BOX CONTENTS

A gentle reminder to keep these as healthy as possible, and not to overload the boxes. We ask that any spherical items such as grapes, cherry tomatoes etc are cut in half as these can present a choking hazard in young children. For some inspiration you can visit www.nhs.uk/change4life where you will find healthy meal tips. We also have a healthy eating leaflet on our website: <http://southholmwoodpreschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Preschool-Healthy-Eating-V3.pdf>

Children are offered a substantial snack during both the morning and afternoon session, so please bear this in mind when putting lunch boxes together. We are a nut-free environment (this includes items such as 'Nutella') and we appreciate your help keeping all our children safe by not including any nut-based items with your child's lunch.

PARENT COURSES

Mole Valley Family Centre at Goodwyns Road in Dorking regularly run informative courses, and from February 23rd they are running a Parenting Puzzle course. You can find more information about this and other courses at <https://www.molevalleyfamilycentre.co.uk/whats-on>

ENTRY AND EXIT

To help maintain some social distancing drop-off can be between 9:00am and 9:30am (working parents only may drop-off from 9:00am). We cannot accept all children arriving at 9:00am as many of our staff do not arrive until after this time. Lunchtime pick up is 12:15pm.

Afternoon drop-off is 12:45pm, and afternoon pick-up can be between 3:15pm and 3:45pm to allow for social distancing.

CAR PARK 🚗

You may be aware that we rent our pre-school building from the Parish Council of St. Mary's Church. Use of the car park is very much at the discretion of the church. To continue having this very useful facility we all need to be very respectful when entering, exiting, and in particular parking.

We would encourage parents to walk if at all possible as a first choice by parking a little way from our Setting (perhaps in the village, or lay-by along the A24 where there is a gate and path from this point that leads directly to the Parish Room). We would be grateful if you do have to drive up to the car park, please drive very slowly, and do not park in the little 'passing' area half-way up on the right. Please also park without causing any obstruction to others, remembering that access may be needed for emergency vehicles. The gates to the property adjoining the carpark must not be obstructed.

One final point on cars – can we please ask that when stationary in the car park all engines are turned off.

TERM DATES 📅

Just to remind everyone these are our term dates this academic year:

Autumn: 2nd Sept to 15th Dec 2021 (Half Term 25th Oct to 29th Oct)

Spring: 6th Jan 2022 to 30th Mar 2022 (Half Term 14th Feb to 18th Feb)

Summer: 19th Apr to 21st Jul 2022 (Half Term 30th May to 3rd Jun)

SICKNESS BUGS 🤒

Generally around this time of the year winter sickness bugs can be around. If your child is unwell please do not send he/she into pre-school until they are 48 hours clear of the last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea.

SOCIAL MEDIA 🌐

Please do not use social media platforms to contact pre-school or any member of staff. If you have an established relationship with a member of staff which was in place before your child joined pre-school, please do not direct matters relating to pre-school to them personally. It is against pre-school policy for staff to accept 'friending' requests from our registered families. If you have any questions or queries relating to any part of your child's attendance at pre-school please contact us via email: southholmwood@btinternet.com or telephone 01306 740135.

Thank you for your help and support.

Louise Harrington, Manager (L3)

*Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead,
Health & Safety Lead, Accounts*



Tina Hillson, Manager (L3)

*SENCO,
Designated Safeguarding Lead, ELSA*

Autumn Planning – Rhyming Books (Gruffalo/Oi Frog)

Weeks 1-6 (6.1.22 – 11.2.22)

