



MULBERRY COURT PRE-SCHOOL

## AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER 2024

Welcome back to pre-school for the Autumn Term after the summer break. A big welcome also to the new children just joining us this term. The aim of this newsletter is to keep you, the parent/carers, informed of what will be happening during the Autumn Term.

### Dates for this term:

Autumn Term 1 - Monday 9th September to Friday 25th October

Half term - Monday 28th October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Autumn Term 2 - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 20th December

**Halloween** falls in the half term this year, so we will be doing lots of fun activities in the week before half term! Halloween fancy dress for the week, for the children is optional!

**The Christmas party will be on Monday 16th December from 11.30 – 2pm.** If your child does not attend on a Monday and you would like them to come to the party, please let us know as soon as possible. You will be able to drop your children off at pre-school at 11.30am. There is no charge for the Christmas party and no packed lunch needed as all food is provided.

**The Christmas Nativity** – The date for our nativity this year is still to be confirmed. I will update you all as soon as possible.

### NEW OPENING HOURS!

We have some important news to share with you. As of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November we will be open from Monday to Friday, 9-3pm, enabling us to offer up to 30 hours of funding for working parents who may need this. We will have 3 sessions available, 9-12pm, 12-3pm and 9-3pm. Due to the legal adult to child ratios required, these will be the only sessions/start, finish times available. In the next week I will speak to all of you to see which sessions you require. If you are a working parent and require more hours, and do not already claim for them, please go to either the Portsmouth City Council website or the Childcare Choices website for more information.

[Early education funding for 3-and-4-year-olds - Portsmouth City Council](#)   [Homepage](#) | [Childcare Choices](#)





Our Themes for this term are;

Autumn, Traditional tales and the colour Orange - Autumn term 1

Traditional festivals, My family and the colour Red - Autumn term 2

If you would like to encourage your child to bring in something relevant to the themes for the half term, we will be delighted to display them on our interest table. The interest table is situated next to the book corner in the main hall. We have found this a good way to encourage discussion and encourage the quieter/shyer children to talk.

**Amy!!** ..... Congratulations to our lovely Amy who passed her Level 2 SENCO accredited course. She loved it so much she is continuing onto the Level 3 course this year!! Well done Amy!

Books to take home

Next week we will start the Lending library again. Please return books to Pre-School as soon as you and your child have read them. This enables us to offer a wide range of books to the children to take home and share with a parent, carer, sibling or other family member/friend.

Pre-school T-shirts and sweatshirts

We have some t-shirts and sweatshirts left in pre-school, should you wish to buy any. T-shirts are priced at £7.00 and sweatshirts/cardigans £9.00. These are not compulsory but do save your own clothes! We are low on sweatshirts so as soon as we have numbers of how many required, we will order more. If you would like one of these please let me know as soon as possible. We will do another order on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, so if you would like to order anything, please ask before then.

Please remember while they are learning, the children and their clothes can, and probably will get messy from painting and other messy play, and if in the garden possibly dirty, therefore please dress them in clothes you don't mind getting messy!

**Learning Journals** - Dates will be arranged termly for you to come in and speak to your child's keyworker regarding their progress. We made the decision at the end of the summer term to no longer carry on with the Learning Journals. When the Early years curriculum was revised, one of the aims was to remove the burden of paperwork that has arisen in Early years over recent years. We were finding the staff were having to spend more time creating these Learning Journals rather than being with the children themselves, as much as possible, potentially missing valuable learning





opportunities. This does not mean that the staff will no longer be observing children or tracking progress from their starting points. This is still necessary, but there is no requirement by Ofsted to have it all written down. The staff will continue to observe, assess, and plan for your children, in preparation for eventually starting in Year R, and summative assessments will still be carried out each term. Please speak to myself or one of the staff if you wish to discuss this further.

### **Payment Policy**

We will not be changing our payment policy (as previously stated in the summer term).

All our policies and procedures are available to read on the website and in the pre-school. Please take note in particular of the policy for the payment of fees. The fees are always due by the half term of the current term. Unfortunately, if fees are not paid in full by the due date your child will not be offered days or extra days/hours for the following half term, or until all fees are paid in full.

### **Toys from home**

We made the decision last year to not allow toys from home to be brought into Pre-school. Toys brought from home can be broken, lost or taken home by another child (especially if they are not named) which causes unnecessary distress for the child. If your child needs a comfort object, such as a dummy or blanket, they may bring this in. This will be placed into their own bag and left there unless they become upset and need to have it. In previous terms, so many toys, often very tiny ones, were lost at pre-school, resulting in sad upset children, annoyed and sometimes angry parents, and frustrated staff! If your child does bring a toy in without your knowledge it will be placed in a box for safekeeping until going home time. We would really appreciate your cooperation on this, and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to any one of us. Thankyou.

**Morning routine** – We would like to ask you to encourage your child, in particular the older children, to say goodbye to you in the small room (where you come in) This is not compulsory, but we have found this helps the children to settle quicker and promotes their independence. Thankyou.

### **Facebook page**

If you would like to join the parents closed facebook group for the pre-school, search for Mulberry Court Pre School and click on the link to join the Parents Group. Only parents of children currently attending the pre-school will be permitted to join. Please note, in order to safeguard all the children, you are not permitted to copy and share pictures from this group elsewhere on social media. If you are found to have done this, you will be removed from the group. We regularly add photos of what the children have been up to in the week.

### **Finally.....**

Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any change of phone numbers, your own or your emergency contact ones, change of address, or you want to change your child's collection password.





Please ensure EVERYTHING your child brings into Pre-school is named!! Bags, coats and lunch boxes which have no names in them, cause unnecessary stress for the children, who have to wait until the correct bag/coat/lunch box is found for them. Thankyou.

I hope all the children enjoy this term with us. If you have any problems/queries, please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff. We will keep you updated throughout the term with any updates.

Thankyou

Janet and staff

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