**Patcham Village Pre-School Newsletter**

Spring Term, February 2018

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

As we continue to enjoy the Spring term with the children, we have some important information to share with you, and one or two reminders and requests.

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**Registering Children for September**

We hope very much that your child/children will remain with us until they are due to start in Reception. We feel that if your child is happy and settled here, why introduce an extra and unnecessary change to their lives by moving them to nursery? A letter and application form for September is attached, which explains in more detail why we feel it would be beneficial to your child to stay with us. It is worth reiterating here, however, that a nursery place does NOT guarantee a school place. Last year, in fact, many children at Patcham nursery did not get into the school.

**Clothing**

As the weather is very changeable, and is currently extremely cold, can we please ask that children come to pre-school suitably dressed? This includes warm coats, hats, mittens, jumpers/cardi’s, and sensible shoes. Please write your child’s name in all clothing to prevent items getting lost.

Our own supplies of spare clothes are rapidly depleting, if you have any you no longer use (2 – 5 years, including socks and knickers/pants) we would be very grateful for them. Thank you.

**Lunches**

Please could you ensure that you do not overfill children’s lunchboxes? We have found that those children who have lots of choice, rarely eat a whole lunch, but instead pick at bits of it. A good lunch box will contain a sandwich/wrap/roll, fruit and a yogurt - a pot of yogurt (instead of the tube type ones which children suck) is far more beneficial to children’s physical development and early writing skills, as using a spoon allows children to practice shoulder, elbow and wrist pivots required for writing.

**A word** **about grapes: To prevent them becoming a choking hazard, please cut them in half lengthways.**

**Parking**

Thank you all for adhering to our request not to park on the pavement at the side of the premises. This is our fire exit route, and cars parked there could cause a real danger to the children.

**Volunteers**

If any of you have an hour or two to spare, and would like to volunteer to accompany staff and the children on outings to the Peace Gardens or Library, etc, please let us know. We will contact you in time for our next trip.

**Collection**

Thank you for collecting your child/children promptly at the end of their session. Some of the children, particularly the younger ones, do tend to get upset if they are picked up late, and we also have a commitment to vacate the hall by 3pm.

**Fees**

There has been no increase to our fees for several years. Sadly, due to poor government funding and rises in our out-goings, we have no choice but to raise our fees this year after Easter. The new hourly rate from then will be £5.50

**Free Funded Hours**

Please be aware that we are pleased to be able to offer:-

15 funded hours to all three-year olds from the term after their third birthday;

30 funded hours to qualifying three-year olds;

15 funded hours to qualifying two-year olds.

For more ways to save on childcare costs visit:-

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Many thanks for your continued support.

All the team at Patcham Village Pre-School