

# CHOLSEY PRE-SCHOOL

Newsletter  
October 16th

## This week we have.....

Been on a lovely nature walk looking for mushrooms and we also looked at and discussed recognisable signs on our way.

Made Pitta Bread Pizzas using mushrooms, we spoke to the children about knives and using them safely and hygiene when preparing food. They cut their own mushrooms and their pittas with passata they then covered them with mushrooms and grated cheese. To finish off the children wrapped them in foil and washed their hands.

Used mushrooms in many ways this week, we have used them to print some wonderful pictures using autumnal colours. We have also done some observational drawings of mushrooms and used them in our maths area. We used conkers and mushrooms and our weighing scales to see which was heaviest and what happened if we added more or less. To start with we had 1 mushroom and 1 conker and wondered which was the heaviest, we then weighed them and discussed how the scales worked and which was heaviest. The children then went about adding and taking away items from the scale buckets.

Had some wonderful mark making going on this week in our sand tray using sticks and paint brushes. We observed fantastic patterns and lines being drawn, rubbed out and then started again.

Used a different set of scales to weigh and measure our playdough ingredients so the children could make their own playdough.

Observed the children racing cars around the table, so we added to this by using some road tape and then watched the play again, and again added car park spaces with numbers and the children added a McDonalds, this was done whilst we were speaking with the children about what they see when in the car.

Made a fairy garden using natural resources and fairy garden parts.

Had lots of building going on, the children have dressed up as builders, looked at books to do with building and from that they built their own towers!

To finish off this week today we are trying mushroom soup!

## Fancy Dress

When we come back after half term we are going to do a Fancy Dress week.

The children can come into Pre-School in Fancy Dress on one or more days that week.

Parents/Carers obviously if you want to drop off/pick up in fancy dress you are more than welcome!

We are trying to raise some much needed funds for Pre-School so we are asking for a £1 donation for those taking part in fancy dress week, we look forward to seeing what you come as!!

## Reminders

With the change of season comes the need for an extra pair of footwear. Please can we ask that you bring in a pair of wellies, even though we have some we don't have quite enough for everyone.

We are also asking you to do some 'Shoe' practice at home. Can your child do their shoes? Learning to do shoes does take time and making sure your child has the right sort of shoe for them is important. Laces, buckles and zips are great, if you can spend time to help them learn how to do them. Because we like to help the children with their independence, we like to encourage them to do their own shoes.

Make it fun and enjoyable and we can do a WOW moment for any achievements.

## Dates for your Diary (please check Newsletters and online Notice Board for updates)

### Half Term

Pre-School Finishes 11.45 am 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Pre-School Starts Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

### Christmas Holiday

Pre-School Finishes 11.45 am 18<sup>th</sup> December

Pre-School Stars Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

## Contacting Us

If you need to contact us please either telephone or email. If it is urgent then please telephone us on 07584258009. The emails are not monitored all the time on some days there may be a delay in response.

Please do contact us if your child will not be in Pre-School on that day.

Our working hours:  
Monday - Friday 8.30 - 4.30pm  
Saturday - Sunday We are closed

We need to make you aware of our working hours, emails or phone calls sent out of hours will not be dealt with until our return. This is to make sure all staff have a proper break.

## Fundraising

Why do we Fundraise? Well the 15 free hours that are offered to all parents/carers are subsidised by the Government. Sadly, what the Government pay us doesn't cover the running costs of a Pre-School, not just us at Cholsey but many Pre-Schools, Nurseries and Childminders. Last year Becky created a Petition regarding the lack of funding in Early Years, this petition got many many signatures, but sadly got cut short and stopped because of Brexit.

Attached to the email sent today is a slide to show the figures.

This year we have lost out on many Fundraising opportunities due to COVID-19 and we have seen many early years facilities close for good. We are determined not to let this happen to us but we can only do it with help from you and the community.

So, we are really pleased to announce our first (for this School year) Fundraising activity!

Join Cholsey Preschool for some eco-friendly, socially-distanced half-term Halloween fun in our Virtual Balloon Race, be in with a chance of winning some great prizes and raise money at the same time!

Virtual balloons cost just £3 each from <https://ecoracing.co/user/page/911>

You can buy as many balloons as you like and even gift them to family and friends.

Design and customise your balloon(s) over half-term, you can even research the weather conditions at the launch site, Dracula's Castle, to improve your chances of winning because in this simulated race, everything is real, except the balloon!

Watch the virtual launch online at 9am on 31<sup>st</sup> October, then track your virtual balloon over the 7-day race to see whose balloon travels the furthest.

This is a combined event with charities from across the country so there are fabulous National Prizes to be won: £500 Cash, Apple iPad and 10 £10 Book Tokens. Additionally, we will be offering fantastic prizes to supporters of Cholsey Preschool whose balloons travel the furthest.

Thank you for your support and Good Luck!