


Newsletter

November 2023

Autumn Term



Contacts - You can contact us on (01884) 35018. The Pre-school mobile number is 07927057415. We can also be contacted at admin@cullomptonpreschool.org Our website address is www.cullomptonpreschool.org See our website for general information and our weekly blog and photos of what children have been doing and learning.  'Like' us on Facebook to see regular updates of our session activities.

Dear families

We are working on promoting a love of reading and stories in our pre-school and we are choosing 5 books a week to read which we will share with you all and they will be all along a theme, this half term we started with 'Family Life' then 'Space' and now Fairy Tales.

It is so important that children are read to every night/every day and this really helps with their brain development and it is crucial for children to love stories and books, it is so helpful if you draw attention to the pictures and the characters and talk about what is happening in the book. Please let us know your child's favourite book and they can bring it in to share with their friends. Reading with your little children can improve their outcomes for school, bringing the books to life with different voices and facial expressions will be really engaging for your child!

Amelia (Pre-school Leader)

How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

From 15th November 2023 to 15th January 2024

Devon Admissions team can be contacted at

admissions@devon.gov.uk



Thank you to everyone that took part in our Pumpkin Colouring Competition! Here are the winners of our pumpkin colouring competition! Well done to everyone that entered!

2 year olds - Harrison Cook
3 year olds - Gaby Lopez Pena

The winners received a certificate and a chocolate treat!

Parents of children with **food allergies** will be aware that we put measures into place to ensure that their allergies are understood and monitored by all pre-school staff. The housekeeper, who usually prepares the session snack, is aware of every child that has a special requirement regarding food items and ingredients. A file containing comprehensive information about each child's allergy or intolerance is available for all staff to view. With parental permission, a 'head shot' photo of each child with a food allergy or intolerance is always displayed in our kitchen area so that all staff are aware - this is particularly useful in the early weeks of a new academic year whilst we get to know the children. All parents will have noticed that we display snack boards outside so that you are aware of the food items that have been offered during each session. Allergen information regarding any food prepared or offered during the session is also available to view each day at pick up times.



You should by now have received an email advising you that your child's self-portrait or handprint has been included in our **Christmas T-Towel**. These make excellent gifts for family and friends and are priced at **£6.00 each**. We only have limited stock so these will be available on a first come first served basis. You can reserve t-towels by paying for them at the office either by bank transfer into our fundraising account or we now take card payments for fundraising items.

Diary Dates

Date	Details
Friday 17 th November 2023	The Children in Need Spotacular – children are invited to come into pre-school wearing SPOTS!
wc 20 th November, wc 27 th November	Parent Consultations – appointment times have now been sent out
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	Pre-School is closed for normal sessions. All children will be invited to our Christmas party for either the morning or afternoon session – you should now have received your invite letter.
Friday 15 th December 2023	Last Day of Autumn Term
Tuesday 2 nd January 2024	First Day of Spring Term

Parent Feedback



Each year we send out a couple of surveys to capture your views on your experiences with us, the first of which has recently been sent out to ask for your views as “new starters” and the second one is a “Key Person questionnaire” which will ask your views on the relationships and experience you have and other areas of our provision as well.

Here are the ideas that we worked on from the last Key Person Questionnaire:

“more info on snack time please” – we share with you each day what the menu is for snack time on boards outside while you are in the queue – it also shows the snack for the next day too using photo cards. We bake a lot of our snack ourselves to save money and to ensure we can cater to all allergies without children having to feel different – for example our flatbread only has 4 ingredients and is dairy free. We have a full list of ingredients and how we plan for allergies.

“not sure what the EYFS is” – we send out links to our curriculum which is guided by the Early Years Foundation Stage – we talk about this at the New Parents Evening and your learning journey will have print outs of the info too. You can find more information at www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage

“can you explain your learning activities” – I try in the blog each week to share what we plan, to let you know what the group leaders have planned for their circle times and why we plan it and share our activities on Facebook when I can to show the learning we have planned for the children.

“more ideas for home learning please” – I wrote a new section on the website to share ideas, we will hand out home learning ideas for all children each term along with progress updates twice a year – on entry and as each child moves to school or to the Sun or Moon group.

“need more info on pick up please” – this is a tricky one – we all have around 6 or 7 key children and we have 3 separate rooms so cannot get to each of you each day but try really hard to see you all over a week. Some of our staff work part time so may not be as available each day but all staff look after all children so should be able to give you feedback. It is a little harder at lunchtime as the 12 noon pick up clashes with lunches. If you have not seen your key person, please do email in or give us a ring for a chat. We also have parent consultations coming up soon so book in for one of those.

“more info on what you do day to day” – the parent gallery is extensive; I try to load up 100 photos a week to give a good reflection of our activities and to share with you how varied our days are.

We look forward to receiving your first surveys back on your “settling in” experience and we are always looking for new ideas and comments and work hard to make our provision “Outstanding”.



REMINDER! Choking is one of the leading causes of death for children under 3. Even if your child is confident eating solid foods, a grape, a cherry tomato, a blueberry, a strawberry or a cocktail sausage is just the right size to get stuck in their windpipe. Please cut grapes, cherry tomatoes and strawberries into quarters – long ways is the best way according to latest advice. Please cut blueberries in half. Cocktail sausages should be cut longways and then into six small pieces.

If staff have their heads down cutting up grapes etc during pre-school lunch times, they are unable to watch the other children. Your assistance with cutting up these items in advance is essential – thank you.

Thank you to the families that came along to our family photo shoot on Sunday 22nd October – orders are now being processed by Concept Photography and we will advise you when your orders are ready to collect. This event is for fundraising – we will share the amount raised once this has been confirmed.



Children are invited to attend their session wearing SPOTS on **Friday 17th November** to raise money for Children in Need. We will be facepainting spots during the day too!

We will have a collection box for donations in our reception area! Thank you for your support.

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Got something you would like to tell us? Your child has had a 'wow' moment? You would like to give us some feedback or make a suggestion? Do you have any worries or concerns? You would like to share a healthy recipe with us? Use this slip to tell us anything at all! Post the slip into our post box in reception

If your comments are confidential, please put into an envelope and mark 'Confidential – for the attention of the Pre-school Leader'.