




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

If your child was born between 1st Sept 2020 and 31st Aug 2021 they are due to start Primary School in Sept 2025.

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

From 15th November 2024 to 15th January 2025.

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!

Age 4

1st – Matilda Ransley
2nd – Archer Spiller

Age 3

1st – Harrison Cook
2nd – Amaya Swinford Humphreys
3rd – Oscar Barker

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.



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.



Win a Teddy Bear!

We have a lovely big Teddy Bear in our Reception area who would love to find a home with one of our families! All you have to do is buy as many draw tickets as you would like. Tickets are 50p each & you can pay by cash or card at the office. To enter the draw you will need to fill in the draw tickets next to Teddy with your name & phone number. Good Luck!



Thank you to the families that came along to our family photo shoot on Sunday 20th October – Your orders have arrived and are being given out as and when we see you. This event is for fundraising and

we raised an amazing amount of **£141.50!**

Children's Christmas Artwork – 'Class Fundraising'



You should have received your child's xmas card design recently, they are lovely! The deadline for orders was last week so we will keep you updated when we receive them.



We'd like to say a big thank you to Albie's family who looked after our stick insects over the Half Term. I'm sure the stick insects enjoyed their little holiday with you!

We will be looking for volunteers to look after the stick insects again over the Christmas holidays, if you are interested then please contact the office. Thank you!

Diary Dates

Date	Details
wc 25th November, wc 2nd December	Parent Consultations – appointment times have been sent to you
Tuesday 10 th December	Sun Group – Singing at Culm Valley Care Centre – info will be sent to the parents of the attending children shortly
Wednesday 11 th December 2024	Pre-School is closed for normal sessions. All children have been invited to our Christmas party for either the morning <u>OR</u> afternoon session – you have received your invite letter telling you which session your child will be attending.
Wednesday 18 th December 2024	Last Day of Autumn Term
Monday 6 th January 2025	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.

Parent Questionnaire feedback we are working on

Families who join after our May/June induction do miss out on the New Parents Evening information and lots of other emails and don't have the same experience.

- We have changed our induction checklist to ensure new parents joining after Sept are sent the slides from the New Parent's evening presentation and have all the relevant emails sent as well.

Feedback chats at the end of the session would be great

- Some staff do work part time hours which makes this hard if the pick up times are outside of those hours – we are aware of this for specific children so are working to ensure you get a weekly note on Tapestry or that other staff are available and that key workers so their best to ensure they see you when they are in.

More frequent updates on Tapestry.

- We are using Tapestry as a tool to communicate with you and this half term is the first time key workers have had access to the system. We are not using tapestry to send photos of specific children but we hope you are enjoying the setting wide pictures.

More info on how to buy uniform

- We will share this info more at your session visits so that you can order uniform then.

Opening at 3pm instead of 3.05pm for a school pick up

- We will not be opening earlier I am afraid as the story time is very precious quiet time at the end of the day. If you are at the front of the queue hopefully you are able to be in and out in time to rush for the primary school pick up.

A couple of families did not know who the Pre School Leader is:-

- It is Amelia

Communication books

- We are moving away from using paper communication books now that we have Tapestry – please send your key person messages via Tapestry – it is checked every day by Amelia.

We had mostly “excellent” in all areas with a few “goods” so we will work on those over the coming year – thank you to all families that completed the questionnaire.