



Rackerhayes Pre-school
Tel: 07791867573 /
rackerhayesmanager@live.co.uk

www.rackerhayespreschool.org



Charity Number 1017322

September / October 2017 NEWSLETTER

Hope you all had an enjoyable summer break, and made the most of the weather!! (rain or shine!!) If you did anything exciting over the summer and wish to share your photos or souvenirs with your key group/person, please do.

Many of your friends have gone off to Big school and we wish them well. We would like to welcome all the new faces, adults and children alike to the pre-school.

Please look at the display boards in the entrance foyer, we have updated and rearranged them. We continue to display our 'key skill of the week' if you could encourage your child to participate in the weekly activities this would be very advantageous for them and us.

Summer Social

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported us, we hope you all enjoyed the day and participated in the various activities, Pyjama Drama, 'For Goodness Snake' and the Bouncy Castle (thank you to the Brett family). Congratulations to our Summer Social winners, we hope you all had fun on the day, and for those lucky people, an opportunity to use your golden ticket prizes over the summer break. Daniel's Gran won the Cake (thank you Maria for making an awesome cake), Hamper winners: Jack, Ethan and Jamie. Thank you to everyone who donated items for us to raffle or sell.

Sponsored walk

A very enjoyable day was had by all who attended, if you have not brought in your sponsor money yet, please do. Please look at the display boards showing the photos of our memorable days

During these events, you have raised a staggering £623.25, which will enable us to purchase a foldable table and a room divider (to make the pre-school more appealing!!), a camera (to capture your child's magical moments), some wooden kitchen role play foods, small world figures and some more ICT equipment, (because the children always enjoy playing with new toys 😊)

Sessions

Please discuss your requirements with Karen, if you have already reserved your sessions for January and April, they are secure. If you need a reminder of what you have booked please ask Karen or Jackie.

If you have younger siblings or know of anyone interested in attending the pre-school, please ensure they are on our waiting list as soon as possible to secure desired sessions. *Headcount week* is 2nd to 6th October, this is when all parents of funded children must sign for their child's hours. If you know that you will not be in attendance this week please speak to Karen.

NEW for September 2017

As a pre-school, we often reflect and evaluate our practice. With the introduction of the additional 15 hours and by popular demand we are offering you a 9am start. This is optional, for those of you who wish to continue to start at 9.30am, this is also welcome 😊 For more information around funding please visit the Childcare Choices website. www.childcarechoices.org.uk

Easy Fundraiser

Whilst shopping online either for your back to school shopping or Christmas, don't forget to shop via www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rackerhayespresch/ to help your Pre-School raise money easily, at no expense to yourself but the big companies will donate a percentage of what you spend to the pre-school, all you need to do is register! And don't forget to add easy fundraiser reminder to your tool bar this will inform you instantly if the company you are shopping with donates to worthy charities. since enrolling on this scheme £393.54 has been raised by staff and parents – thank you

Theme/topic

This term starts with two weeks of free painting to help settle the children and adults back into the pre-school routine. We will then continue to be creative with various media and materials, encouraging them to be curious, explore, examine and use their imaginations and we should hear some wonderful animated conversations!!

WANTED

We need to develop, improve and maintain our outside area. Therefore, I am making an appeal to willing parents who enjoy gardening or DIY to help construct a small patio under our story shed a cement mixer is on loan to make this job easier!!. If you can assist us please speak to Karen or Jackie

We are also on the lookout for unwanted treasures to help with the children's creativity, imagination, problem solving and critical thinking skills, so if you have any of the following items and would like to donate them to the pre-school will be gratefully received and will provide the children with endless fun and learning opportunities.

Wooden – pegs, knobs, beads, scoops, spoons, measuring scoops, kitchen utensils, relish/nibble serving dishes, Russian nesting dolls, bangles, chunky necklaces, mug trees or kitchen roll holders. Placemats or coasters – cork, wicker or any natural material. Small baskets or tins. Thank you.

Forthcoming Events

Committee Meeting – Wednesday 4th October – 7pm, Ten Tors Inn – new committee members needed, as several of our members leave when their children start school.

Tempest Photography

Will be here between 8.30 and 11.00 on Thursday 2nd November, all children and families welcome, even if it's **not** your child's session. An ideal Christmas present for your family.

TRIP – all children and parents will be invited to join us on a trip to Kents Cavern. Christmas Party and Christmas Social – ALL dates and details to follow – But they will ALL be in December!!

Term dates for 2017 / 2018

Autumn Term 2017

Monday 4th September to Friday 15th December
Half Term = Monday 22nd to Friday 27th October.

Spring Term 2018

Thursday 4th January to Wednesday 28th March
Half Term = Monday 12th to Friday 16th February.

Summer Term 2018

Monday 16th April to Monday 23rd July
Tuesday 24th July – leavers ceremony – for those going off to big school.
Half Term = Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June.
Pre-school CLOSED – Monday 7th May – May Day.

REMINDERS

Café / lunch Time

During café and lunch times, we will be promoting milk or water only.

The children pour milk or water into open cups and we wish to encourage all the children to do this. Feedback from courses has highlighted the importance of open cups for speech and language development, therefore this will be the only form of drinking vessel used.

Fees

If you are a paying customer, don't forget to use the payment box. Please put the money in an envelope and write your child's name, the sessions you wish to pay for and the amount inside or on the front. Fees can be paid weekly, monthly, half termly or termly, whatever suits your pocket. You can also pay online, if you need the pre-schools bank details please ask.

Lunch Club

We would like to advise you to put ice packs into your child's lunch box and that the lunch box is insulated. If you would like anything refrigerated please ask a member of staff, we want to keep your child's lunch as fresh as possible.

Please remember when packing your child's lunch – **NO nuts or sweets** – thank you.

Please put a spoon in your child's lunch box, if they need one. The pre-school did have spare spoons, but they seem to have disappeared!!

Name Cards

Don't forget to remind, or help your child to find their name cards to 'self register'. These name cards are also a 'ticket' into the café! and those staying to lunch also need to display their name cards on the lunch club board.

New children will make appropriate name cards on their first session. Thank you.

Weather

Please bring appropriate clothing for your children. Coats and warm clothing for when we go out to play!! We do try to get out on a daily basis, whatever the weather!! Please label all your children's possessions – hats, backpacks, juice containers, lunch boxes, sweatshirts, coats etc, etc. Staff waste a great deal of time sorting and hunting for labels, to ensure your child has their own coat instead of the one they fancy wearing, or a eating a more tastier lunch!! etc. etc.

Illness and Contact Details

If you or your child are ill on the day of their session and they will not be attending, please call or text to let us know. Staff are at the setting from 8.30am or you could leave a text message or voicemail on the pre-school mobile, if this is more convenient. Thank you.

Please remember that your child should be free of sickness and diarrhoea for **48 hours** before returning to pre-school. This is to prevent cross contamination.

That reminds me, if any of your contact details have changed, if either friends or family or yourselves have moved house or had a new phone, or have changed your email address please let us know so we can update our records and those held on Devon County Councils.

Thank you, for taking the time to read this newsletter!
A copy of this newsletter can be found on our website.