



Clocktower House Preschool Newsletter.

June 2019.

A message from Karen ...

So, here we are in our last half term of the 2018/2019 term! It's a funny old time for us all, there is preparation as children get ready for the next chapter of their lives but also a time to reflect on how far all children have come since starting with us. It's a time of excitement and change, but also for goodbyes.

It's also very busy on the social calendar. We have 7 weeks to fit in Rushmoor in Bloom, Armed Forces Day, sports day, Father's Day, two graduations and a leavers picnic. There's also an idea that we may put on a fun day on a Saturday!! Busy, busy, busy but so lovely to be able to make all these precious memories together, some for the last time.

What's new at Clocktower ...

We are implementing 'in the moment planning' across all rooms. Staff have attended an informative training evening and are now ready to put it in practice.

It's a relatively simple concept where the child leads their learning and adults identify teachable moments and carry our next steps immediately (or the following day if additional items are needed.) An example of how words is "a child finds an insect and asks what it is. An adult informs them it's a lady bird and then provides factual information using books and the tablet. Together they then construct a bug hotel outdoors giving the ladybird and all insects a home" During this the child has had many teachable moments provided by the adult and this happens many times a day. Each week one detailed observation will be uploaded for each child along with additional photos and any wow moments.

Alongside this each week a few children will be selected to be a 'focus child' (each child will be one every half a term) during this week staff AND parents work together to create an individual learning plan. ALL staff in that room then help to implement this (please note, the other children still receive their teachable moments, we just don't record it all) during the focus week you will notice an increase of observations made by all staff as well as a chance to have your input.

This style of planning puts the child at the heart of their learning. The environment and resources are created around the children. Please speak to any staff for more information and please feedback what you think of this new style!

Upcoming events at Clocktower ...

10th June – **Healthy Eating week** – cooking activities and discussions about healthy eating and making good food choices as well as identifying what food in our lunch boxes are healthy.

Sunday 16th June – **Father's Day** – Rooms to update you on their plans.

Thursday 20th June- **Rushmoor in Bloom judges visit!**

Friday 28th June- **Armed Forces Day** – If any parents would like to donate time or resources and show off the best the armed forces have to offer please contact Karen. In the past we've had RMPs, vehicles, exercise drills, first aid displays etc.

Saturday 6th July – **Saturday Fun day** – If anyone knows of any businesses or people that may want a stall at the fun day please let Karen know, if you have anything you can add to the fun day please also speak to Karen.

Wednesday 10th July – **Sports day.**

Monday 15th July – **Graduation for Rocket Room** (invite to follow)

Tuesday 16th July – **Graduation for Moons** (invite to follow)

Friday 19th July – **Last day of term – picnic afternoon for everyone** (leavers, stayers and new families)



Did you know ...

When speaking to your child, it can take them up to **TEN SECONDS** to respond. They need time to process what you have said, understand it, think of a reply, find the words and then say it.

Please don't rush your child when they are talking or fill in silences with more words, this can be very confusing for them!

Simply count to 10 slowly in your head (its actually a long time!) and give them time to respond accordingly.

You can also help expand vocabulary by asking open ended questions instead of closed. A closed question requires only a yes and no answer (not much language there) while a 'who, what, where, when, why' question (open ended) has many more opportunities for language and the introduction for new vocabulary.

Talking to your child is vital for many areas of their development and a much-needed skill for life.

Donations please ...

Volunteers needed for helping us get the garden ready for Rushmoor in Bloom, particularly gardeners!! Please let staff know if you or a family member can help out!

Staff updates ...

Jo has now left us 😞 We have yet to find a suitable replacement for her. Once we do, we will of course share with you. Mel and Melony are in Stars with the other rooms helping out when needed.

All staff completed an induction to Makaton training session and have begun implementing it in the setting. Makaton helps to *enhance and develop* language and communication skills, not to replace them. Bethany is our Makaton champion and will be sharing new signs and songs with parents and the children.

Mel just completed her level 5 at university and has just signed up for her level 6.

Yvonne is within reaching touch of her level 3 qualification.

Claire has attended an introduction to SENDco course and is now our deputy SENDco.

Bethany and Mel are studying 'Team Leading.'

Tanja is studying 'Childhood illnesses.'

Karen is studying 'Challenging Behaviour'

Emme and Claire are studying 'Understanding Autism'

Sunet is booked in for first aid in September (all other staff are first aid trained)

All staff are booked in for safeguarding training in July (Karen and Tanja are the designated safeguarding leads)

Karen recently attending a consultation on the new OFSTED framework.

Reminders for ...

Please apply sun cream to your child BEFORE they come to preschool. We will reapply for those who stay all day (please provide the cream) if you have left the cream here, you can apply it as you drop off. We have over 30 children a day, applying sun cream to them all, takes precious time away from them.

At Clocktower, we always have an open door for our families.

If there is anything you need from us, if you ever need to talk, or if you have any feedback or suggestions, we are here to listen.

Karen