**Westgate Pre-School News**

**January 2018**

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, a belated welcome back to the Spring Term and a warm welcome to our new families.

Please bear with us if you have read some of this information before, but we need to pass it on to our newer parents.

Starting Points Meetings We will be arranging a brief meeting with new parents over the next week. Your child’s keyworker will speak to you to arrange a convenient time.

Parents’ evenings We have provisionally booked the following dates for Parents evenings for the rest of this year: Wednesday 21st March 2018 and Wednesday 27th June 2018.

**Mrs Potts** You will probably be aware from the news that Pre-schools and Nurseries are finding it difficult to survive financially due to low government funding. Whilst we are very careful in managing our finances, we are finding it difficult to subsidise extra-curricular items such as Dance and PE with Simon. We are very keen to continue with these activities, as we know the children greatly benefit from them and we would really appreciate if parents of children, who pay no fees at the present would kindly donate £5 per week and those paying fees, £1. We have a money box in the shape of a teapot next to the signing in sheet for your donations, or please speak to a member of staff if you prefer to pay termly. If you would like to pay by bank transfer, the details are as follows:

**Westgate Pre-school, account no. 00748182 sort code 30-99-15**

PE Request Please could we request that children do not wear tights on a **Tuesday**. We have PE on the apparatus on alternate Tuesdays and we need the children to go barefoot for safety. Alternatively, children can bring named pumps to change into.

Parking Please can you respect local residents and NOT park in their parking bays or block the entrance to their parking bays and do not block the staff park entrance. Parking is very limited and it would be appreciated if you did not park in Martinique Square. We apologise for this inconvenience. The residents are setting up cameras and you may be fined if you park there. Parking is available on Friar St and access into the playground is available through the school gates.

Mobile Phones Please do not use your mobile phone within preschool. This is in line with our safeguarding policy. Please make sure phones are tucked away in your handbag or coat pockets.

Policies Westgate Pre-school policies can be found in a big yellow folder by the signing in sheet, if you get chance please have a read or alternatively these can be emailed to you.

Tapestry All our record keeping and learning journals are now completed using a computer program called Tapestry. If you would like to give us your email address, you will be able to receive an email telling you when a new observation has been written on your child and you will be able to comment on it. You will also be able to add your own “wow” moments if your child does something special at home.

Training Day On **Friday 22nd J**une Pre-school will be **closed** for training. We hope that by giving you plenty of notice, this will not cause you too much inconvenience.

Committee Meeting Our next committee meeting will be on **Monday 5th February** at 7.30pm in Pre-school. All parents/carers are welcome.

Easter Fair We will be holding a fund-raising Easter Fair at the end of term. If you have any unwanted, unopened Christmas presents that we could use for a tombola, please bring them in. We would also appreciate any unwanted soft toys for our hook a bag stall.

Facebook Etiquette Preschool have a facebook page: facebook.com/westgatepreschool. This allows us to share with you what children have been doing and pass on messages. We are very careful to ensure that children’s identity is not compromised in pictures, we never show faces. Please if you comment do NOT mention children’s names.

We would appreciate any positive reviews from parents whose children have been coming to preschool for a while.

Spare Clothing Could you please provide your child with a spare set of clothes in case they get wet at preschool.

Pre-school times We just wanted to make it clear that the children who start Pre-school before 9am are our Early Birds who have paid to start earlier.

Could you also please ensure that you pick your children up on time i.e. 12pm, 1pm or 2.45pm.

Term Dates To enable you to plan your holidays and childcare cover here are our term dates:

Break up for half term Friday 16th February return on Monday 26th February

Break up for Easter Thursday 29th March return on Tuesday 17th April

Break up for half term Friday 25th May return on Monday 4th June

Break up for summer Thursday 19th July

Pre-school Prices

Early Birds £2.50 per session

Additional hour £4.75

Afternoon session £8.00

School dinner £2.58