



# Children's Voices

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## The King Street Pre-school Newsletter

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King Street Pre-school is a registered charity – number 1121482

### **Welcome Back!**

Welcome back; we hope you had a lovely Christmas. Welcome too to all the new families joining us this term!

### **Christmas Raffle**

Thanks to all that brought food for the Christmas party. The raffle winners are:

1<sup>st</sup> = S. Tharma, Cambridge

2<sup>nd</sup> = Chris Butterworth, Cambridge

3<sup>rd</sup> = Paul Linton, Cambourne

4<sup>th</sup> = A Faulkner, Yaxley, Peterborough

We raised £348! This money will be spent on a new bookcase as our old one is now rather old and shabby. Thanks everyone for selling so many tickets and raising such a large sum.

### **Extended hours**

From September 2009, King Street Pre-school will be offering longer sessions. Parents are currently entitled to 12 ½ hours of free learning and care per week, over 38 weeks a year, across a minimum of three days, from the term their child reaches three years of age.

All local authorities are required to increase the time offered from 12 ½ hours to 15 hours by September 2010. King Street Pre-school has been chosen by Cambridgeshire County Council to offer this increase a year early.

This means that from next September, we will be opening for half an hour longer per day. This half an hour could be at the start of the session, or added to the end, and we will be sending out a questionnaire shortly to find out which option is most wanted by parents.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) becomes mandatory for all Ofsted registered settings and schools caring for children under the age of five in September 2008.

The EYFS replaces the Birth to Three Matters Framework, Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage and the National Standards for Under Eights Daycare and

Childminding, creating a single framework covering children from birth until the September after their fifth birthday. The new framework was published in March 2007 to give settings sufficient time to adjust and receive training before it come into force.

There are five overarching general requirements, as follows:

### **1. Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare**

The provider must take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The provider must promote the good health of the children, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and take appropriate action when they are ill. Children's behaviour must be managed effectively and in a manner appropriate for their stage of development and particular individual needs.

### **2. Suitable people**

Providers must ensure that adults looking after children, or having unsupervised access to them, are suitable to do so. Adults looking after children must have appropriate qualifications, training, skills and knowledge. Staffing arrangements must be organised to ensure safety and to meet the needs of the children.

### **3. Suitable premises, environment and equipment**

Outdoor and indoor spaces, furniture, equipment and toys must be safe and suitable for their purpose.

### **4. Organisation**

Providers must plan and organise their systems to ensure that every child receives an enjoyable and challenging learning and development experience that is tailored to meet their individual needs.

### **5. Documentation**

Providers must maintain records, policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of children.

Each general requirement is set out in three sections:

- The overarching general requirements.
- The specific requirements.
- Statutory guidance.

Providers must meet all the statutory requirements and have regard to statutory guidance.

### **What the EYFS means for King Street Pre-school**

Dana Sajfrtova and the committee have been working hard over the past few months to update all our documentation and procedures in line with the EYFS. As a result, each parent will receive, this half term, the following documents:

1. Operational plan – a document stating how the pre-school is run.
2. Policies and procedures – this document states all our policies and procedures and will be given to you on CD-ROM as it is very long. Please ask Dana if you would prefer a paper copy.

3. Updated registration form and consent forms – these have changed as it is now an Ofsted requirement that we determine who has parental responsibility for the child. We would be grateful if they were filled in and returned promptly.

These documents will be placed in drawers this half term, so please ensure you check your child's drawer regularly.

## Parental help rota

Starting this term, every parent / carer **must** help out at the pre-school for one morning every term. Please sign up on the sheet, choosing which day (Thursday or Friday) and date you would prefer. This gives you the opportunity to see what your child does during the session and a chance to get to know other children and staff. Please remember that parent volunteers cannot change nappies or take children to the toilet.

## Committee and fundraising

We always welcome new committee members; please contact Melissa Clark on the hotmail address below if you are interested. Use this address also if you have any good fundraising ideas!

## Easyfundraising.org.uk

Easyfundraising.org.uk provide a FREE service where you can shop with your favourite online stores and at no extra cost raise funds for any charity, good cause or group you choose to support. You still shop directly with each retailer as you would normally, but simply by using the links from our site first, each purchase you make will generate a **cash-back donation** to the cause you wish to support.

For example, spend £25 with WH Smith and 3.5% will be donated. You will have raised £0.88, at no extra cost to your purchase. Make any purchase from Amazon and 2.5% will be donated. Insure your car with Direct Line and raise £35.00, or purchase a mobile phone from O2 and earn £17.50, and so on.

You can shop with 600+ Brand Name retailers and to raise funds you just use the links from our site first - it's that simple!

**All you need to do is register at the website, and put King Street Pre-school as the charity you are supporting. This is such an easy way for us to raise quite a bit of money so please register and use this site if you can!**

## Water bottles

Please remember that every child need their own labelled water bottle brought in with them, along with a healthy snack, every morning.

## Topics for this term

The children will be doing activities based on the weather; winter, spring, snow and rain. Topics are usually planned around children's interests, so please talk to Dana if there is a subject your child would particularly like to cover.

## Rent a toy

If your child loves a particular pre-school toy, then it can be rented from us for a nominal cost. This may also be a useful idea for birthday parties! Please ask Dana for details.

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 6-8pm Parents' evening – details to follow  
16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February inc. – Half term

**King Street Pre-school, Wesley Methodist Church, Christs' Pieces, Cambridge CB1 1LG.**  
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Treasurer: Emilie Van der Aa-Burton, Secretary: Lucy Watts, Committee members: Andrea Newman, Imogen Axtone and Lianne Verheyden