

Sutton-on-the-Hill Pre-School



Autumn Newsletter

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Dear Pre-School Families,

We hope you enjoyed the half term break and that you are ready for our last half term of the year. We have lots of events planned for the year ahead so we hope to see you!

Hello Winter!

As colder winter weather approaches, it's time to dig out our warm clothes so we can continue to enjoy the great outdoors. At this time of year, this can include wellies, waterproofs, coat/warm layer, a set of spare clothes (including socks), hat and gloves.

With this in mind, we have decided to focus this term's **next steps** on getting dressed and undressed independently, ready to face the cold weather.

Please remember to label removable items with your child's name.

Staffing Update

You may have recently noticed our advert for a new part-time practitioner to join our setting. In part this is due to our dear colleague, Kathy deciding to move on to new challenges away from Pre-School before the end of this month. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time with us, and we will greatly miss her experience, warmth and exciting contributions.

It is Kathy's wish to leave her regular sessions quietly, without any great farewells. Of course, the children and staff will make a suitable fuss of her! Kathy has kindly agreed to return when we need extra cover, and she will always be a very welcome presence here. We wish Kathy every success as she embarks on her future adventures away from Pre-School and would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her dedication and commitment during her time with us. She will be missed!

To maintain our staffing, we are delighted to welcome Debra Hulton to our team. She has over 20 years experience in pre-school settings and brings a wealth of ideas and experience to add even more sparkle to our magical team.

Any concerns, please do talk to Krisztina or our Committee Chair, Margot.

TERM DATES

**Monday 3rd November –
Friday 19th December**

The children's last day in Pre-School will be **Friday 19th December**. As we have an inset day on the Monday, their first day back will be **Tuesday 6th January 2026**.

A full list of term dates is available on our website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nativity & Breakfast with
Santa**

**Thursday 11th December
9 - 11am**

**All families welcome (incl.
those not in session)**

Join us in Church for our nativity play. Santa will be waiting on the return to Pre-School for a festive breakfast!

Refreshments will be available, donations welcome.

**Festive Fun Activity Week
15th – 19th December**

Five days of Christmas themed fun to celebrate the season. Christmas clothes encouraged!

Keeping Safe at Home time

Please can we ask for the support of parents at pick up time and request extra care be taken on the ramp with wet leaves or indeed snow and ice. Please do not encourage your child to go under, over or climb on the ramp handrail to avoid any end of day bumps or falls. Children should meet their grown-up at the top of the ramp before going to collect their belongings. Thank you for your help.

New Committee Members

We are delighted to have welcomed a number of new parents to our Pre-School Committee for the year ahead. Committee officer roles are selected each year at Pre-School's AGM, with our current Committee as follows:

Chair: Margot Colgrave | **Vice-Chair:** Charlotte Harrison | **Treasurer:** Catherine Bridge | **Secretary:** Kay Prince | (Future) **Parent Member:** Sheridan Bennett-Clarke | **Manager:** Krisztina Meszaros

Our Committee helps make decisions on how Pre-School is run, fund-raises and helps run events. We always need at least 5 elected Committee members to keep Pre-School running with a majority being current parents. New Committee members are welcome at any time.

A Word from our New Chair, Margot Colgrave

I hope this finds you and those you love, well and happy! I thought I would take this opportunity to formally introduce myself as Chair of our Pre-School Committee. Many of you will know me!

Many years ago, I trained as a Primary Teacher, specialising in Special Education. Over the next 35 years I worked in various primary schools and was a Headteacher for over half my career.

About 6 years ago, I joined the pre-school world – and loved it. I was privileged to become the Manager at Sutton on the Hill, retiring in December 2023. I have been very fortunate to remain part of our wonderful setting, enjoying watching and supporting the totally capable team. We have a really magical setting that I feel really proud to be part of. Our staff all bring their unique talents to make a fabulous place for all the children who pass through our setting.

As Chair I hope to continue to provide suitable leadership, support and challenge to the staff, committee, parents and most importantly, the children. We all strive to continue to make our Pre-School a very happy and safe place to be.

The Committee meets at most 6 times per year; meetings last about 1.5 hours. Currently all the committee officer positions are all covered but for us to exist as a Charity Committee, we must have current parents on our committee. If you think you could help us remain a viable committee, please talk to us! We make it as easy as possible since we need and want you involved!

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I look forward to continuing to be part of our delightful Pre-School.

Rainbow Talk

In November, we welcomed families into setting for our first Rainbow Talk open morning. Rainbow Talk has been rolled out by Derbyshire Early Years and supports children acquire speech and language skills through good modelling and gentle encouragement. After a short introduction explaining the principles of Rainbow Talk, everyone enjoyed activities designed to spark conversation. It was lovely to give parents an insight into Rainbow Talk and hopefully, they will continue at home with their Rainbow Fan. Thank you to those who donated amazing cakes and to those who attended. We raised £32 pounds!

Preschool Uniform

Uniform items can be ordered throughout the school year. If you'd like to order uniform (by no means compulsory), the following are available in both 3-4 years and 5-6 years, please speak to our team to obtain an order form.

Polo Shirt – Green £10 | Sweatshirt – Green £12

Promote our Pre-School!

Personal recommendations are incredibly powerful. If your child is enjoying their time at Pre-School, please spread the word! We have spaces available and would appreciate your help if you're able to share your positive experiences, share our Facebook posts (<https://www.facebook.com/SuttonontheHill.P/>) or let us know if you think there's an appropriate venue for one of our Pre-School flyers.

The Year Ahead

If you'd like to change your child's usual sessions from January onwards, please speak to Krisztina as soon as possible as planning for the new term is already underway.

Our Christmas Prize Draw

Our annual Christmas Prize Draw is one of the highlights of our fundraising year, and it's back! All funds raised will go towards an exciting revamp of our outdoor play area.

We currently have prizes on offer including:

- Fortum & Mason Hamper
- Breakfast at St George's Park, courtesy of Hilton Hotels
- National Trust Family Pass (2 adults and up to 4 children) to The Children's Country House, Sudbury
- 3-night stay (in your caravan or motorhome) at Lakeside Park, courtesy of Don Amott Leisure
- 2 x Candle Making Kit (worth £30 each)
- Rollerworld Entry Tickets
- Newlands Café & Farm Shop Gift Voucher

Please sell as many tickets as you can and help us make this event a success. Extra tickets are available at Pre-School.

We're continuing to add raffle prizes, big and small. If you or your company would like to contribute a prize, please talk to Krisztina or any Committee member—we'd love to hear from you!

Finally, we wish all families great fun in the festive season ahead!

Pre-School Staff and Committee

