

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1

Welcome

Firstly a **very warm welcome** to our new children and their families and of course welcome back to our current children. I hope you all had a good summer break despite the not-so-summery weather at times!

Ofsted

As some of you will be aware, on July 7th we had an Ofsted inspection which proved to be very positive. We were rated as **Outstanding in every area**. A copy of the report is attached. We are extremely proud of this grading as we have worked very hard over the past year to provide a high quality provision for the children at Tavistock Pre-school. We have proved that allowing children to learn through their play while following their own interests enhances their development and encourages the skills they need to 'learn how to learn'. Great when all the children have to do is play and have fun! The role of the adult in Tavistock preschool is of course much more than 'play' but at times we do have almost as much fun!

Flexible Hours

As you will all be aware we are launching our flexible timings this term. We do not have set 'sessions' now but a range of hours when children can come and go. I do realise that for some of you there has not been as much 'flexibility' as you, or we, would have liked. Unfortunately, even after turning a number of new parents away, we are so full that hours have had to be restricted which means that some of you are not able to have your preferred hours. I am running a waiting list; please do not hesitate to let me know if there are specific hours you would like or if you can be flexible about your days/times which may help someone else out.

Please Be Prompt!

Due to the lack of a mid day break with no children in the setting, the **prompt collection and drop-off of children will now be essential**. We are only registered for 24 children under 5 years old at any one time; therefore, if you are late collecting your child we will be unable to let another child into the playroom until you arrive. I realise there are very occasional unavoidable circumstances when you may be late but other than these exceptional circumstances please ensure you are on time. Due the implications of late collection we will unfortunately have to fine any



recurring lateness.

Access To The Preschool

During discussions with the Infant school over the holidays it is now felt a Health and Safety risk to have adults walking through the school playground at our numerous drop off and collection times. We will be building a path so the Pre-school has its own independent access. This access path will take until half term to be completed. In the meantime we will continue using the gate at the front of the Infant school. To protect the safety of all our children this will be locked between the hours of 9am and 3pm.

At drop-off at 8.45am and pick up at 3.15pm the gate will be unlocked, otherwise the gate will be manned by the Pre-school at the following times: 9.45am / 11.45am / 12.45pm / 2.45pm

This is also a reason to be prompt as parents will now need to wait until all registered before being escorted across the playground to the Pre-school. At all other times you will need to sign in and out at the Infant school as a 'visitor' please. I REALISE THIS IS NOT A CONVENIENT SYSTEM FOR PARENTS OR PRE-SCHOOL STAFF BUT THIS IS ONLY A SHORT TERM MEASURE PLEASE BEAR WITH US WHILE THE PATH IS BUILT.

Communication

I hope to carry out much more communication by email and our website this term. There is an element of initial set up before this can happen but watch this space! Please do not hesitate to ring or text the new Pre-School mobile phone out-of-hours number. I will have this phone with me and although may not always answer it you can text or leave a message anytime and I will get back to you. Equally I will be using texting as a form of communication and therefore ask that you update me with any mobile number or email changes.

Obviously it is also vital we have any communication changes in the case of an emergency while your child is with us in pre-school.

The new out-of-hours mobile telephone number is 07787 839592.

My email is managertavistockpreschool@gmail.com.

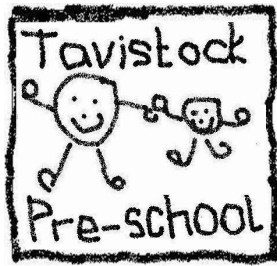
The land line and website stay the same as the above letterhead.

Fruit Donations Please

We are providing all lunches and snacks but would appreciate donations of fruit whenever you can – our daily snacks will be crackers and fruit so whenever you are able to **donate any amount of fruit to be shared amongst all children we will be very grateful!**

Clothes

Please send your child into pre-school in clothes/shoes which you do not mind getting dirty. We are constantly teaching the children to put aprons on and to try to take care of their clothing but it is inevitable in our environment of young children 'learning through play and through their own interests' that the aprons do not always get on in time and they do not protect against everything. Please use appropriate clothing - we do not mind things appearing too small! Far better than ruining good clothes. We are planning to have a logo tee-shirt/sweatshirt available very soon which will save some of your child's own clothes coming into preschool.



Spare Clothing

Please leave a bag on your child's peg containing spare weather-appropriate clothes. We do have some spare clothing but not enough for everyone and it is always more comfortable for your child to have their own change for those inevitable wet, muddy or lunchtime moments! We can always use spare clothing so please donate any spare items, including wellies and coats, which you no longer need.

Fundraising

Tavistock Pre-school parent committee work hard towards raising funds – one way you, as a parent, can quickly and easily start raising funds for your pre-school is through '**easyfundraising**', please see attached flyer. If you are interested in joining our Committee please let me know and put our AGM date in your diary! All are welcome to this whether or not you want to join, more details to follow.

Dates for your diary

- **Tavistock Pre-school AGM: Tue 29th Sept**
- **Half term : Mon 26th - Fri 30th Oct**
- **Inset day: Mon 2nd Nov**

.... And Finally!!!!

Here's to a 'happy and healthy new academic year'! Please feel welcome to 'stay and play' whenever you are able and please chat to your child's key-person regarding your child's progress regularly - **We are partner's in your child's education!**

Please do not hesitate to speak to me, Fiona or any member of the Tavistock team – the door is always open (well, locked most of the time but you know what I mean!!)

PAULA & THE TAVISTOCK TEAM ☺