



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the summer term! I really hope you've all had a wonderful break, I think we're all looking forward to what will hopefully be some nicer weather! I can't believe we are entering the last term of the academic year already. Firstly can I extend a warm welcome to our new starters this term - we are very pleased to have you with us!

I am really pleased to be updating you all on our successful recruitment! We happily welcome Aleksa to our team who will be starting with us this term. Aleksa brings with her experience in Early Years having worked in nurseries previously. I am confident that Aleksa will fit in well to our pre-school and look forward to introducing you to her.

There is a lot happening this term and we will be putting reminders and announcements out each week, but please do have a read of this entire letter as there is lots of information within it.

## Please contribute to keep your pre-school going!

We will be asking everyone for a termly contribution of £10 as an ongoing effort to make up the shortfall in our income. This contribution is voluntary and we do understand that everyone has to deal with financial restraints, therefore if you feel you are unable to make the contribution please do speak to me in the strictest of confidence. We will also be asking for contributions of consumables such as hand wash and cleaning supplies etc. throughout the year. Please keep an eye out for our donation station in the waiting room where we will let you know what we are in need of.

Many early years providers charge a small hourly rate to all funded children, this covers consumable items such as snacks and craft materials. We want to avoid this for as long as possible. If every child made a £10/term contribution this would help enormously with the deficit of funding income versus our outgoings. I do hope you understand our asking for your help and we will continue to strive to provide the best possible early years education for your children with the least amount of impact to you.

Up until now our success rate collecting these donations has not been great, with the main feedback being that mainly people don't have cash on them when they come to pre-school. This term we are trialling a new online transfer system. You can transfer your donation by BACS either as a standing order of £10 a term or £30 for the year. Please use your child's name and the word donation as a reference.

Santander Bank account

Account Number: 86392909

Sort code: 09-01-52



Uniform has always been held in stock at pre-school. We are now very excited to launch our new pre-school uniform ordering site. Please click on the following link to order any uniform you require. The uniform itself is lovely with the logo embroidered rather than printed and it gives you an opportunity to order varying sizes from 2-3 right up to teenage!

<https://myclothing.com/aston-clinton-pre-school/22089.school>

We do have a very small amount of stock here mainly age 3-4 if you want to check with us before you order anything from the website.



Due to popular demand we have booked Tempest photography to come in on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May. They will be with us all day and we are going to try something a little different this year. All children (whether they attend that day or not) will have a chance to have individual photographs taken. This year we are also going to try and have a group photograph taken of all our children moving onto school which you will have a chance to purchase along with individual pictures. Information will be sent out in the week leading up to the day but as a rough guide we imagine the day running as following.

9:30am Group photograph for school leavers - Any children not in session that day may call in for the picture. (Parents to stay please, a signup sheet will be in the waiting room so we know who to expect!)

9:50am Individual photographs of children going to school that have called in followed by individual photo's of children that go home at lunch time.

11am Any children not going to school that would like individual photo's may call in. (Sign up sheet will be in the waiting room)

11.30 All remaining individual photographs of children in for the day will be taken.

You will receive a sheet with proofs on the day and we hope you will get some lovely memories to keep forever!



As a setting we continuously evaluate and assess our practises. One of the things that we have been thinking about a lot lately are the communication books that the pre-school have used for many years. 18 months ago we

launched our online learning journals Tapestry creating a better link between pre-school and home. We hope that this system provides a nice insight into what your children get up to when they are with us. Every member of staff spends a considerable amount of time each week writing in all of their key children's communication books. We feel that this time would be better spent engaging and providing extended learning opportunities. We are therefore going to trial no longer using communication books. This does not mean we no longer want you to communicate with us, if your child does something nice at the weekend or experiences a particularly important moment in their life we'd still love to hear about it, but it would be great if you could put it on Tapestry. Equally if you need to communicate anything to us regarding your children's day to day welfare please do talk to their key worker or to myself or Lisa at drop off. I don't want this to be a breakdown in communication, if anything I'm hoping that it will strengthen the new online system, I would just like to ensure that the team are doing what is absolutely best for your children.



If you have been in pre-school prior to this academic year, you will know that once a year we hold a parent's information day, basically parent's evening but over the course of a day. This is your opportunity to have a focused appointment with your child's key worker to discuss their specific development and to go through their end of year reports that will have been written. This year we will be holding our information day on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July. Please note there will be NO NORMAL SESSION on this day. Children are welcome to attend the appointment with you and there will be some toys out for them to play with while you have your meeting. A sign-up sheet will be available nearer the time to book your appointment.



As we are entering our final term, it seems appropriate to remind everyone that our last session of the year is Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July. We will be holding a leavers party the morning of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July. This will be for the children going to school this year only and details will be sent out nearer the time.



Over the holidays we ran a table top sale as part of our fundraising efforts for the pre-school, to everyone that came along thank you.

This term we have our race night for grownups on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Could we please ask that all booking forms and money are in by this Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. We will also be holding a summer fun day for all our children and families to come along to. Fundraising is a big part of our pre-school and allows us to be able to invest directly in your childrens early education.

This is a really fitting time to mention our amazing committee. Without this band of dedicated ladies, fundraising events simply would not happen and the pre-school would not be the success it is today. The team I currently have the pleasure of working alongside share my passion and enthusiasm for the early education of children and throw themselves wholeheartedly into assisting the pre-school not only to fundraise but for it to be managed effectively as well. I've said it so often but it doesn't hurt to say it again - thank you to you all, for the time you give and for the support you provide.

Being a part of the committee really is an excellent opportunity to become involved in the running of the pre-school. Everybody is welcome, Mums, Dads, Grandparents etc. It enables you to become involved with and understand the decisions that we make and generally get to know people and make friends. If anybody thinks they would like to get involved, please do have a chat with me or any of the current committee, they are very friendly and approachable. We are currently very much in need of some new fundraisers, so if that's something you personally think you could help with or you know someone that would be interested please do let us know. Without these vital roles being filled the pre-school will not be able to continue.



Please do remember the new service we offer, providing additional ad-hoc days as and when required. Our numbers have increased this term so we will have to look closely at any days that you may require, but we will always do our best to accommodate. The service seems to have been very well received with lots of people taking it up!

Just as a reminder this is subject to existing ratios and staffing and any additional sessions would be chargeable and not covered by funding. If ever you're stuck either with advance notice or the morning of, please always get in touch to ask because as stated we will do our best to accommodate.



We have lots of different ways for you to get in touch with us.

Our contact number is: 07928309321

My email address is [acpsmanagement@gmail.com](mailto:acpsmanagement@gmail.com) I am contactable on this during pre-school hours.

Our Chairperson Josie's email address is [acpscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:acpscommittee@gmail.com)

Pam our allocations administrator works in pre-school on a Monday morning. This is an excellent opportunity for you to be able to talk to her face to face if you have any queries about funding or the forms associated with this. She will still be contactable as usual on; [acpreschoolplacements@gmail.com](mailto:acpreschoolplacements@gmail.com)



Aston Clinton Pre-School is on Facebook!! <https://www.facebook.com/astonclinton.preschool>

This is a really useful way of us communicating with you on a regular basis regarding updates and notices that need to be given out! Please request our friendship!



Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April Pre-school opens.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May Pre-school shut for bank holiday.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May Pre-school closes for half term.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June Pre-school closed.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June Pre-school opens.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July Pre-school closes for summer

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July Leavers party for school leavers only. Details TBC.



As always my door is open. If you ever need to talk to me about anything at all, I will ensure we find a time to meet.

Kind Regards

Charlotte Trustram

Manager