



War Memorial Hall, Coleford Road, Tutshill, Chepstow, NP16 7BN

01291 629134

Newsletter June 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the June Pre-school Newsletter! This term's topics are Growing & Mini Beasts, and, as part of that, the children are enjoying many exiting activities including role play in their Garden Centre/Shop and watching their caterpillars turn into beautiful butterflies!

Pre-school Trip: This year's Pre-school trip will be on **Friday 4th July at The Old Station in Tintern**. Please meet there at 9:45am for a fun-filled visit to include craft activities, treasure hunt (with prize) and the miniature stream train. The visit is likely to last until around 1pm and the cost is **£2.00 per child**. Pre-school have subsidised the actual cost of £5.00 per child as a **BIG thank you** for your support over the past year. Please see the flyer or emailed issued for further details.

Nature School: Children who attend Pre-school on a Monday morning session will be participating in our hugely popular "Nature School" session. **Melanie Walton leads this session and would like to give parents/carers a little insight into a typical session by having kindly provided an article at the end of this newsletter.** (Please note that these sessions will continue in September 2014).

Movie showings at The Drill Hall: Thank you for your support in the recent successful screenings of both Disney's Frozen and The Lego Movie at the Drill Hall in Chepstow. We are very happy to confirm that the "family cinema" weekend mornings are planned to continue in the next academic year. These events have been very successful in raising funds, promoting the pre-school and providing the wider community with the opportunity to see popular family films locally.

Communication: Please can you ensure you have provided your contact details to Pre-school. We aim to send communications by email which has really helped reduce pre-schools costs. Please keep us updated should your address change. Also, all events and news are posted on our facebook page so please 'like' us to keep up to date.

Fundraising Events: A huge thank you to all! You've helped raise a huge amount of money by supporting our fundraising events which has helped us to implement many improvements (and plan more!) for our preschool.

Vacancies: We will have vacancies on the committee from September 2014. Being a committee member is a hugely rewarding role, giving you the opportunity to be part of a very enthusiastic and supportive team helping to shape the future of our Pre-school. If you are interested in joining the committee, please let Debra or one of the committee members know.

Tombola: We will be running the Tombola Stall at the Tutshill Family Fun Day held Sunday 13 July and would gladly receive any donations of bottles by Thursday 10 July.

Parent Help: The Pre-school staff very much appreciates the help given by parents and carers. All our sessions are very busy so if any parents can offer their time, **even just for the last 30 minutes to wash up** it would be a great help.

If you have any queries or problems please speak to Debra or one of her team, pre-school have an open house policy and are always happy for you to come into a session to help out or just observe. You are also more than welcome to talk to any member of the committee.

Tutshill Community Pre-School Committee

Dates for the Diary

Pre-school Summer Trip – Friday 4th July, The Old Station, Tintern

Last Day of Term – Friday 18th July

Start of new academic year – Thursday 4th September

Please check our website for a comprehensive, up to date calendar of events and term dates

Autumn 1 2014 Start Finish	4 th September 2014 24 th October 2014	
Autumn 2 2014 Start Finish	3 rd November 2014 19 th December 2014	15 Weeks
Spring 1 2015 Start Finish	6 th January 2015 13 th February 2015	
Spring 2 2015 Start Finish	23 rd February 2015 27 th March 2015 Good Friday 3 rd April 2015 Easter Monday 6 th April 2015	11 Weeks
Summer 1 2015 Start Finish	13 th April 2015 22 nd May 2015 *Closed 1 st May 2015 *Closed 4 th May Day 2015	
Summer 2 2015 Start Finish	1 st June 2015 15 th July 2015	13 Weeks

Nature School

We have been able to visit Tutshill School on Monday mornings to use their beautiful enclosed field in the middle of the school. The field has a large grassy area, some rough areas with long grass, a small hill, a magnificent oak tree and a log circle to sit on. It is bordered by fields where cows come and look at us.

Initially the children stayed close to us and followed our prepared activities. We ran about with them to encourage them to make use of the space. However, after a week or two the children became more confident and now fully explore every corner to find worms and make little dens. It is now their place, not just a space we take them to. We always plan things to do to act as provocations for play which has included measuring trees, making birds nests and woodland woven wands. We have squeezed grass to make paint, found insects, made arrow trails, chased bubbles and listened to nature stories. These act as a springboard so that children can invent their own play and use the freedom of the natural space to interact with each other, use their imaginations and learn.

Melanie Walton, 16th June 2014