

TURVEY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Newsletter June 2011

She did it!!! Congratulations to Debora Morley on successfully completing the London Marathon! Deb ran the marathon in a very impressive 4 hours 20 minutes and she managed to run all the way. As many of you will know this was a huge achievement as towards the end of her training and preparation Deb had an injured calf muscle and wasn't able to run for the last few weeks so wasn't at all sure how it would go on the day. Most of you who sponsored Deb have brought this in but if not, please bring in your money as soon as possible. If you'd like to make a donation following her success, that would be equally welcome. To date Deb has raised a fantastic £1800 with two companies sponsoring her for £200 (Autoglass) and £700 (Santander). Thanks to Simon Brown and Andy Morley for their support here.

Front garden area You've probably noticed that we are making further progress with the front garden. The children enjoyed clearing the leaves back in March and we have now begun planting our herb garden. We have been fortunate to have the help of Marieke Berndsen (Jacob van Riel's mum) with this – thank you, Marieke! We'd also like to thank Alban Hill Nursery at Sherington who have kindly donated the plants to us and will be supplying some more after half-term.

We have talked to the children about looking after our plants – watering them and not climbing/walking on the soil where they are - and would ask you to help us by reminding them when you arrive and are waiting to come in.

Our front garden will be one of the projects to be visited by the judges for Anglia in Bloom in July. Turvey in Bloom have also asked us to submit some photos and background information on what we've done for part of their portfolio and display. It's great to see the garden being completed and to have it recognised by others in the community.

Tesco/Sainsbury's vouchers Thanks to everyone who's been bringing vouchers in to post in our boxes. Tesco and Sainsbury's have stopped issuing vouchers now so please bring in any vouchers you have left at home so we can make the most of them. We already have well over 3000 Tesco vouchers!

Dates for your diary
w/c 30 May – half term week
3 June- Fundraising meeting
6 June – return to pre-school
18 June- Turvey Village Party
22 June – Coffee morning and Open Day
1 July – closure day
4 July – committee meeting
22 July – Teddy Bears Picnic

Fundraising News A very positive meeting was held in April with lots of enthusiasm and lots of ideas. We welcome Isobel Conibeere, Marieke Berndsen and Melanie Findlay to the Fundraising Group and look forward to their input.

Our **Blue Bag collection** has recently taken place and thanks to all who helped with this. We will let you know in due course how much this raised. A collection box for **recycling mobile phones and printer cartridges** is now in pre-school. You can also enter a competition for Halfords to win £100. We plan to do the popular **handprints for Father's Day** - you should have a letter and order form for this. On **18 June** we will have a stall at **Turvey Village Party** with some fun activities for the children so do come along and have some fun.

Spending money raised. We have put on hold replacing the flooring in the kitchen/toilet/corridor as we still don't know what might be needed for the outbuilding roof. We await further news from the landlord's agent but have been chasing them up on this.

It has been decided though to buy some new things for the children so watch out for some new toys/equipment arriving after half term.

Lost clothing Recently several parents have been unable to find items of their children's clothing when collecting them. Some of these have been pre-school sweatshirts but also a few light jackets (girls). Despite being named inside and having a good look they have not been found nor turned up later.

We know it's easy to mistake clothing on pegs and that they can get mixed up but can we please ask everyone to check at home that what you have does belong to your child and not someone else. It's really essential to have your child's clothing (especially sweatshirts, cardigans, etc) clearly labelled with their name so it shouldn't be possible to get them mixed up and if using biro on labels please renew regularly as biro fades quite quickly. Labels that are sown or ironed in are more permanent and easier to see. We can look at sourcing some for you to buy for your child – if interested please let us know.

Children's scrapbooks/meeting keyperson –

Your child's development record of their time with us will be available to take home to look at and share together from 4 July. Your keyperson will pass this to you and once you've looked at it we ask you to return it a week later with the feedback sheet signed and dated and with any comments.

If you'd like to speak to your child's keyperson about how they're getting on and discuss any concerns you may have, please speak direct to your keyperson to arrange a suitable time

Sun hats/sun cream Please remember to bring your child's sunhat and to apply sun cream on any hot days coming up.

If you would like a pre-school sunhat we have them for sale at £3.

Coffee morning and open day Following on from previous successful coffee mornings we invite you to come along for coffee, cake and a chat to The Manor Room (next to Pre-school) on Wednesday morning 22 June. This ties in with our Open Day so do take the chance to come and see what we're doing too. We look forward to seeing you!

What are we doing at pre-school?

You probably know by now that we had our own 'Royal Wedding' which the children loved and we've made a book using pictures of the Royal Wedding that the children chose, cut out and stuck in along with the photos of our own. Look out for this in Turvey News!

We've continued this half-term with the idea of 'Growing' as we've planted vegetable seeds (carrots, lettuce and beans) and the herbs in the front garden. We will be doing more planting as the children plant out the flowers they grew from seed as well as other plants in the front garden. They will be growing beans in jam jars at pre-school to watch every aspect of what happens and later will have the opportunity to plant a bean to bring home. If you do any of these things at home, perhaps you'd like to have a little helper or at least talk with them and show them what you're doing.

We are also looking at numbers and encouraging children to count and recognise numbers through various activities – singing, stories, books and posters, games such as dominoes and hopscotch and roleplay activities such as greengrocers and ice cream cafe. We continue to encourage those interested in writing their names to do this and to help them to form the letters correctly.

If you'd like to help with any of these activities, you'd be very welcome so please let us know, or just sign up on the parent rota.

Lunchtime drinks A recent information session on oral health has highlighted to us the damage done to children's teeth by various drinks including fruit drinks, juice and squash. We will in due course be sending you what we hope will be some helpful information on this. However, it has led us to talk about what happens at lunchtimes and we have noticed that increasingly there tends to be a lot of wastage with smoothies/juice at lunch time with a small amount drunk and the rest thrown away.

As a result we've decided to follow the recommendations given to us and to offer only water and milk at lunch times which we will provide. We hope this will simplify lunch times and as the children are usually happy with these drinks at snack time don't anticipate it to cause a problem. We will begin doing this after half term.

Calling all dads! Well, maybe that's a bit sexist and we should say all DIYers because we have a few small jobs that need doing and would really appreciate some help to get them done. The sort of things are putting up a shelf, changing light fitting (not wiring) etc and in the past we've found it's worked really well to get a few dads together on a Saturday morning to tackle these jobs. It's taken a couple of hours and that it (though I think the pub may also have been involved...). If you can help with this please let Deb, Rebecca or any member of staff know. Thank you!

Student work placement For one week beginning 4 July we will have a student from Sharnbrook Upper School with us for work experience. If you have any questions regarding this, please ask Rebecca or Maria.

Sessions for September are in the planning stage and a letter is going out to parents whose children will still be with us. Please let us know as soon as possible what you'd like your child to do next term.

Teddy Bears Picnic invites will be given to the children during the coming half-term. This will give us the opportunity to say a sad but fond farewell to those children (and parents) leaving us to go to school. As usual it will be held in the play area at the Rec (please ask if you're unsure of where this is) from 12- 2 pm. You're welcome to stay longer than that but staff will be leaving at around 2 pm to return to pre-school.

Ad hoc sessions are a way to give your child an extra morning/afternoon at pre-school in addition to what they already do as you'll know from your Welcome Pack. It's particularly useful at busy times and usually it's this coming half-term when we have children on holiday that we publicise this. So if you are going to be on holiday, please let us know when your child is away so that someone else can have the chance of an extra session.

To date we know we will have 1 space as follows:

14,15,16,17 June morning and lunch
28 June all day, 29 June morning only

If you would like your child to do an ad hoc session at any other time, please ask Rebecca or Maria and we'll check if it's possible.

