



Dulwich Village Pre-school

Welcome to Dulwich Village Pre-school!

We realise how daunting this time can be for parents and children alike. For this reason we have put together some information which should help clarify any questions that you may have regarding the pre-school.

Please note that we are led by an elected committee, which ensures that major decision making is in the hands of the parents. All parents are welcome to join the committee and support the school.

We also hope you will join in with some of our events - they are lots of fun, always popular with the children, and a great way to get to know everyone.

In the meantime, if you have any questions which are not covered, feel free to chat to us at any time.

Best wishes

Marcela Ferreira

Committee Chair

Ten things you need to know about our Pre-School:

1. We are a registered charity
2. We are run by a voluntary Parent Committee
 - Parents can have a say in how the preschool is run, how it might improve and further develop.
 - The more you put in, the more your child will get out
3. We are Ofsted Registered and ranked 'Good' in their latest report
4. Throughout the year, we run fundraising events for parents and children: (Pumpkin Party, Christmas Party & Play, Easter Bunny Hunt, Summer BBQ & Sports Day)
5. We work in partnership with businesses such as Musical Bumps, Theatre Tots, Rugby for All and Zoo Lab, as well as have cooking classes covering anything from bread making to Sushi
6. We organise coffee mornings for Parents to get to know each other
7. We invite Parents to come in (as often as they would like) to read to the children
8. All children are closely monitored and formal reviews are held after 6 months
9. We have been running for over 51 years
10. Our staff love what they do. Their dedication and loyalty has meant long careers at the pre-school - the longest being over 22 years!

We always need volunteers! So please join our committee and make a difference

Book Bags

All new children are given green book bags to put their pictures, letters and books in. If you are in a hurry in the morning and want to speak to a teacher but do not have time, please put a letter in your child's book bag as we check them every session. Equally, do not forget to check your child's book bag for any school letters or information.

The Red Books

All children at the pre-school have 2 books....

1) The Pre-school Journal

We ask parents to provide us with photographs of holidays, outings, family, friends or anything which would be of interest to your child. The idea is to encourage children to talk about their life outside the preschool, and create their own journal in the process. Please feel free to include pictures within the green book bags provided as we check them daily.

The journal is given to each child at the end of their stay with us and is a great keepsake of their time with us.



2) The Pre-school Development Book (or the red book)

The development book (red book) encourages children to practice their pencil skills. Children are encouraged to draw anything that is significant, for example it might be something relating to the term's topic or a story that has been read in pre-school. Children will also practice writing their names, number and shapes.

You can take a look at your child's journal or development book any time during the school term. All we ask for is for parents to get in touch with us and organise a suitable time first

Packed Lunches

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide school meals at the pre-school. However, we provide a light snack during the morning and afternoon sessions.

We encourage parents to pack a healthy lunch and to avoid certain foods such as crisps, chocolate and fizzy drinks. Foods containing nuts are banned from the school due to possible allergies.

Children can be fussy eaters, and we appreciate that packed lunches can sometimes prove to be a challenge. Over the years, we have noticed that certain foods can be easier than others.....here are some tips we learned along the way:

- Black olives are a surprise hit
- Hummus breadsticks, carrots and cucumber are always a great addition
- Pasta salads are good alternatives to sandwiches
- Consider berries: blackberries, blueberries & strawberry's
- Don't overlook cherry tomatoes
- Yoghurts or jellies always bring out smiles (but please remember to put a teaspoon in the lunchbox!)
- Never lose faith in the old favourites (ham, cheese, tuna and egg sandwiches). Apples, bananas and oranges never go out of fashion)

Please note we cannot heat up any individual meals so do bare that in mind when choosing a packed lunch for your child.

Parents are welcome to bring along a birthday cake when appropriate. Everyone likes birthday cake!

Our Website

We have recently re-launched our website and filled it with lots of information relevant to parents. You can find out more about the Pre-school in general, such as our policies, educational programme, our approach to behaviour and discipline as well as read about some of our sessions, find out what a typical day is like, or just check out the latest pictures in our Gallery.

There are lots to see and we are always adding to it, just visit www.dulwichvillagepreschool.co.uk (or .com) and see for yourself.

Dates for your diary

2015 Term Dates:

Inset day 1st September 2015 - *staff only*

2nd September - 22nd October

Inset day 23rd October 2015 *staff only*

26th October - 30th October - Half Term

1st November - 18th December

2016 Term Dates:

Inset day 4th January 2016- *staff only*

5th January - 12th February

15th February - 19th February - Half Term

22nd February - 24th March

Easter break

Inset day 11th April - *staff only*

12th April - 26th May

(2nd May Bank Holiday)

Inset date 27th May - staff only

30th May- 3rd June - Half Term

6th June - 20th July

Other important events:

AGM September at 8.00pm - date tbc

The Annual General Meeting looks back over the previous year and elects the parent committee for the coming year. The AGM is an opportunity to meet some of the staff, ask questions and learn a bit more about the preschool.

It is followed by a Committee meeting where we discuss the new term events and any other relevant topics.

The pre-school is run by a parents committee and we encourage all parents to attend and get involved

Easter Egg Hunt (date TBC)	Fun for the children and parents during school time.
Summer BBQ 8 th July 6.00pm - 8.30pm	Great family fun with games, music, bouncy castle, raffle, BBQ and bar.
Sports Day 20 th July	Held on the last day of term. All parents are invited to come along and cheer the children on.
Pumpkin Party October (date TBC) 6.30-8.00pm	Great family fun with games, music, bouncy castle, cakes, raffle, hot dogs and bar. Tickets go on sale in October All funds raised go back into the preschool
Christmas Play December (date TBC)	All parents are invited to watch our Christmas performance. Children are asked to arrive at 9.30 and parents & friends at 11.30.
Christmas Party December (date TBC)	With party games and a magician this is an event for the children only. Drop off is at 9.30 and pick up at 12.30

We remind parents of all events and fundraising activities closer to the time, though we recommend that you keep the dates above in mind in order to avoid disappointment.

Driving to Pre-school

Please remember there is as 10mph speed limit on the drive to the pre-school. Do keep to the speed limit and drive carefully, remember that this is also the pathway for parents and children to the pre-school.

Even if you are late - don't rush - drive with caution!

Joining Form

Please ensure that you complete the 'your child's interests' in our Joining Form as best as you can. It is used as a starting point for our staff when assessing new children's interests as well as reviewing their progress throughout their time with us.

Last Word

Though we produce hard copies of our newsletters, we rely on email to let parents know of regular updates and news regarding the school.

For this reason, please ensure we have your correct **email address** in our files.