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## Autumn 2023 Newsletter 2

What a lovely first half term we have had this year! But I'm sure we can beat that with all our fabulous plans in the run up to the festive season!

Themes for this term:

W/C 30<sup>th</sup> Oct - Halloween/ Bonfires

W/C 6<sup>th</sup> Nov – Remembrance/Diwali

W/C 13<sup>th</sup> Nov – World Nursery Rhyme Week

W/C 20<sup>th</sup> Nov – Our Favourite Rhymes

W/C 27<sup>th</sup> Nov – End of Term - Christmas

### **Christmas Week**

One of our busiest weeks of the year! More details will be shared closer to the time – but we have already booked a visit from a very special person who will be joining us at the end of term Christmas party (with Disco!) on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December (Last day of term). We normally ask that parents help contribute to the party food, either through food or a small cash donation – this will be planned closer to the time so please keep an eye out for a list near the signing in register in December.

We will also be inviting parents to come and watch our nativity – date to be confirmed but it would be lovely to see lots of you there!

### **Extended Hours Provision**

As you know we have been trialling sessions both earlier and later in the day. Sadly, we've not had the uptake we need to keep these sessions running in their current form. However, we are reluctant to stop them, as we know that some of our families are reliant on those extra hours for childcare. The sessions will continue to run as normal up until the Christmas break at a cost of £5 per session. If you do wish to make use of them, please do speak to Lorraine or Jenny.

In January we will be officially extending our core hours to run from 8.15 – 4.15 – and the good news is you will be able to take advantage of these sessions using any funded hours you might have – or pay our standard hourly rate of 4.90 per hour. Again, this will be a trial, but we hope that it will make it more accessible to those of you that need it!

Session times from January:

Start Times: 8.15am / 9.15pm / 12.15pm

Finish times: 12.15pm / 1.15pm / 3.15pm / 4.15pm

Minimum session length 3 hours

It would really help us with planning if you could let us know if you think you will want to use the sessions (although not essential until you book for next half term, but we will be asking you to book your next term places earlier than usual). If you need more information about your funding entitlement or the changes to funding provision that are due to come in April 2024 then please speak to Pennie.

### **Stay & Play Session – Wednesdays 10am – 12pm**

A reminder that Stay and Play is back this year but with a new time! Sessions now run on Wednesday mornings for under 5's. A great chance for parents / carers to bring along your little ones, get to know the setting and the staff and have lots of fun – and with the change in time it also means snack time will be included!

Cost is £2 per child to cover overheads and adults must attend the session. This is open to all under 5's including our Scallywags even if it is not their normal day.

## **Facebook**

For those of you use Facebook, please do follow our public page 'Sallywags Pre School Halwill' for up-to-date info on events and things going on.

We also have a closed group for parents and staff. Whilst important information will be communicated to you through phone, email, text, or letter we do share additional info on this group to keep you all up to date – as the group is a private group please speak to Lorraine, Lorna or Pennie to get access.

## **Fundraising**

As you know we rely on fundraising to keep us going financially and we are always grateful for any support our families can give us.

Bag2 school – thank you to those who donated bags of unwanted clothes – we raised £155 in return for these donations - so thank you.

You can also support us every time you shop online with [easyfundraising.co.uk](http://easyfundraising.co.uk). Simply set up an account – choose us as your cause and then visit hundreds of your favourite websites, via the easy fundraising app and we will get an extra cashback donation with no extra cost to you! As online shopping peaks in the run up to Christmas we would love for as much support as possible!

## **Dates for your diary**

### **Christmas Shopping Fair – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – 6.30pm – 9pm**

There will be stallholders with something for everyone but if you're super organised with your holiday shopping already then please do still come along and support us! Refreshments, cakes, and raffle will be running as usual!

If you can donate to the raffle, cook or buy us some delicious cakes, or help on the night we would be grateful.

### **Co-op Cause Celebration Day – Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> – 2pm**

We have been very fortunate to be part of the Co-op local community fund this past year and thank you to all of you who have supported the campaign. Our fundraising period has now ended but there's one job left – to collect the money! We have been invited to a cause celebration day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November at the Hatherleigh Co-op branch – there will be a photo opportunity with a nice, oversized cheque! Please speak to Lorna, Pennie or Lorraine if you and your Sallywag would like to come along! Please note you must be happy for any photos taken to be shared on social media by Co-op / Sallywags and within the Co-op advertising campaign.

## **Christmas Bingo – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Doors 6.30pm, Eyes down 8pm!**

Our Christmas Bingo is booked for 8<sup>th</sup> December! Our much sought after Chicken Dinner hampers will be top prizes, with many other delicious seasonal treats, cash, vouchers and fabulous prizes from local businesses and suppliers.

Come along and see how many prizes you can walk away with!

We will have the bar open again and will be opening earlier so that you have plenty of time to purchase drinks, relax and get those dabbers ready with a later finish time so you can relax before heading home!!

## **New Year Parents & Staff Social – January 12<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Each year we like to plan a Christmas get together for our staff, Committee and our parents – however we appreciate the run up to silly season can get a bit hectic!

We are planning this year's event for January 12<sup>th</sup> – and invite all our parents to join us for a meal! We are still confirming a venue, but more information will be provided towards the end of term – we will require a small deposit and menu choices in advance from anyone who would like to come along, and full details will be shared soon.

Lorna, Staff & Committee

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