



Sallywags Pre School
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Ofsted registered number: 106369

January 2024 Newsletter

A big welcome back, and welcome to our new families for the Spring term. As usual there is lots going on, so please make sure to familiarise yourselves with the information below – especially some exciting fundraising dates!

Themes for this term include:

Garden birdwatch, Arctic and Antarctic animals and World book day.

Committee 2024

We were pleased to welcome two new committee members last term and with lots of new parents joining us, we would love to welcome some more! As a charity Sallywags simply doesn't function without the hard work of the staff and committee in the background. We are not just here to fundraise, but also keep the business side of the pre-school running too. Everything from finances, legal requirements, health and safety and more! We meet approximately once a month and of course at our fundraising events – which although are designed to bring in money, also give us lots of enjoyment too. It's also a welcome bonus on any CV with certified training courses provided where needed. If you are interested, please do speak to Pennie, me or any other committee member.

As most of you are probably aware I will be stepping back ever so slightly this term with some time out for the arrival of our little girl. I'll still be working away in the background but, especially for events, I know the committee would be very grateful for any extra help so please do let us know if you are able to support with any of our fundraising, even if you don't wish to join the committee.

Parent Questionnaire

Please help us to assess and improve our provision by completing the parent questionnaire – due back by 23rd February. (Ask for a paper copy if you prefer one)

Fees

With costs rising the committee have had to make the decision to make a small increase to our fees, from £4.90 per hour to £5.10 an hour for unfunded places. This will apply from April 1st. As with everything, our costs across the board have risen considerably and whilst funding provision has increased, we also need to up our fees, and our fundraising. You will receive a letter about this separately with the details and if you have any questions or queries then please speak to Pennie. We are always open to staggered payment plans and can advise on funding provision you might be entitled to.

Funding changes

April 1st also sees the first stage of the governments new funding provision which will enable working parents of 2-year-olds to access 15 hours a week of funded childcareagain, please speak to Pennie if you need help with this. A separate document will be emailed to all parents who's 2-year-olds may be eligible

Extended Hours Provision – 8.15am – 4.15pm

As you are aware we have been trialling extended hours for two previous terms and whilst we have had separate fees for these additional sessions, we are now able to include those hours in our standard fees, as well as accepting funded hours for this provision. We will only open for these extended hours where they are requested – and these will be reviewed each half term. It will really help us, if you can let Lorraine know asap if you think you might want to take advantage in the future. For this term we are currently opening early on Mondays and Wednesdays and late on Tuesday to Friday inclusive. We do have spaces in these sessions if you wanted to use them, please enquire with Lorraine. Sessions on other days will be assessed after the booking forms go out for next half term. These sessions may have to be dropped in future if there continues to be low take-up.

Roof

As we have previously mentioned, the roof needs some repair work and after the planned contractor pulled out in the summer, we are pleased to say that the work will now be completed in February half term.

Parents, Staff & Committee Social – March 22nd

As in previous years we would love an evening out with all our staff, committee and parents of our children. Whilst we had provisionally planned this for early January, the hectic Christmas got away with us, so we are now looking at a revised date of March 22nd. We are still considering options and will let you all know as soon as we have confirmed. But please pop it in your diary now as we would love to see as many of you as possible!

Fundraising

Thank you as always for the support you have all given to the fundraising events we have last term, with just under £1500 raised from the events and general fundraising and of course we were lucky to receive just over £2000 from the Coop community fund which we are pleased to say we are enjoying spending on updates to technology and resources! Our Spring term events plan is as follows:

Big Breakfast – Saturday 24th February

It wouldn't be the Spring term without the return of the Big Breakfast. As one of our biggest fundraisers it's one we love to do, and we get a good breakfast out of it too! Please do come down and support us, as we will all be working super hard but if anyone is also able to volunteer for the morning that would be greatly appreciated!

Easter Egg Hunt – Wednesday 27th March

We're crossing our fingers that 2024 isn't a repeat of 2023 where we were hunting for our eggs in the pouring rain! But that said we are pleased to run

the event again – this will be open to all children from Scallywags, Toddlers, Halwill Primary and children in the village in the same age categories. We will of course, have cakes, bacon baps (veggie alternative available), egg hunt trails and of course... lots of easter eggs looking for new homes! (If you don't come along the committee are forced to eat up all that chocolate themselves! – so please help us out!)

Easter Hamper Draws – Monday April 8th

We will also be returning with our Easter Hamper draws. Again, another big fundraiser we appreciate all the support you can give us with ticket sales – there will separate information about this coming out to you all soon. We are beginning to fill our hampers so if you can donate, or any businesses you know who would be willing, we would be super grateful!

Easyfundraising.co.uk

Don't forget - You can also support us every time you shop online with [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.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!

Planning and provision

The staff are currently reviewing how they plan and deliver the EYFS curriculum at Scallywags. We have used some of the funds from the Coop to buy new technology for the staff and the setting and are also using money raised to replace some of the items which are showing age and wear, along with buying new resources and improving how we use and present the resources we already have that are still enjoyed by the children. Exciting times for the children and staff.

Lorna, Staff & The Committee

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