



Scallywags Pre School
The Jubilee Suite, The Parish Hall, Halwill Junction,
Beaworthy, Devon, Ex21 5XU
Playleader: Lorraine Crocker
Tel: 07552238793
Email: Scallywagspreschool@outlook.com
Web: www.scallywagspreschoolhalwill.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1033643
Ofsted registered number: 106369

July 2024 Newsletter

The end of term is nearly here but we've got lots going on between now and then so make sure you've got the dates in your diary!

OFSTED

As many of you know we were inspected by OFSTED in the week before half term. The report has been published this week and all children will be bringing home a letter as well as a copy of the report being made available to you all via email. We welcome anyone who wishes, to please ask us any questions you may have.

Calendar 2024/2025 Term Dates - sent via email & on parent info board

Booking forms for your child for September will be available this week – please return these to Scallywags as soon as possible so we can plan staffing accordingly. If you can give us your hours for the whole term that would be helpful but not a requirement at this stage, although we are considering it.

24/25 Admissions - Please contact Pennie for more information and a Welcome Pack & Registration forms. We are aware a lot of settings are now building waiting lists due to the increase in funding available– we haven't hit this stage yet but if you do want a space next year please contact us soon.

Funding & Fees – Please remember we do ask for 4 weeks' notice of any reduction in hours or if your child is going to another setting. This is outlined in the Funding & Fees Policy you were sent with your original Welcome Pack. Extra hours can often be accommodated with less notice but not guaranteed once staff rota's have been set.

September 2024 – Parents may be eligible for 15 hours Working Entitlement funding from when their child is 9 months old. While we don't take children until they are 2, and the current two-year old funding doesn't start until the term AFTER their second birthday, if the 9-month funding is applied for before the start of the term in which they turn 2, then you can take advantage of the funding with us from their 2nd birthday, even if it is mid-term. Please speak to Pennie for more information.

Pick up reminder – We know sometimes there are things that simply get in the way of getting to us at pick up time and we appreciate you letting us know if you are running late. However, where there is a pattern of repeated late pick-ups, we are having to consider introducing a late pick up fee in line with other local settings (at the committees' discretion). We staff according to the number of children we have in setting at any one time and as this

changes throughout the day so does our staffing. Any late pick up can affect our ratios and also have a knock-on effect to our wage bill if staff are required to stay on late.

Extended Sessions – we will continue to provide our extended sessions into the 24/25 academic year. However, we do need to know how many are likely to want to make use of these hours so we can future proof the service. The extended hours can be paid for or you can use funding entitlement, and don't forget we provide breakfast snacks and afternoon snacks during those extra periods. Current uptake still falls below financial viability, but we know how essential it is for some families, so we don't want to withdraw it. Again, if you think you will want to use those extended hours next year can you please let us know so we can assess its future.

Snack Donation – As you know, unlike some settings, we don't charge for the food we provide for the breakfast, mid-morning and after school snack. We are however grateful for any donations towards the cost of snack which costs us in excess of £500 a year.

Committee - We will be losing some committee members at the end of this term as their children are moving up to school and so we would like to ask our newer parents if it might be something that you'd be interested in doing? If so, please speak to Pennie or Lorna for more details. The committee holds the responsibility for a lot of the behind the scenes running and is essential to Scallywags existing. Without the committee's fundraising efforts, fees would have to increase even more, which we all want to avoid!

It really is so important we have support – and it can be fun to!

Facebook - Most of you are a member of our parent's group on Facebook – (if you aren't please do ask – as it is a private group you will need to be invited and you cannot find it through searches). It's a great platform for us to be able to share important information, resources and reminders with you – but it's also somewhere we want you to use as well if you have questions or what to share something! We welcome photos too but please remember only share photos of your own children and be aware that all other parents will have access to that. We do of course control who is a member of the group and it is solely current parents, staff and committee members.

Tapestry – Following feedback from some families, we are aware there is an issue with the time that notifications come to you via email – sometimes in the early hours of the morning. Please make sure you look at the settings on your app or online account and visit the 'edit preferences' to adjust this to 'immediate notifications' to have the information at the time it is sent.

Stay and play – it was lovely to have so many families join us for our special Tiny Travels stay and play event last week – don't forget our stay and play sessions currently run every Friday from 10am-12am on the following dates – June 28th, July 5th and July 12th.

WHATS ON THIS TERM??

Pop up and play – Wednesday July 3rd

We will have a visit from Pop up and play on July 3rd, Class 1 from school will also be joining us. If your child doesn't normally attend but you would like to bring them along (adults must stay) then you are more than welcome, please let us know if you would like to come along.

Photo Day – Monday July 8th

Harley-Jo Photography is back this year for both individual, sibling and group shots. A letter will be coming home about this, and the booking sheet is now available by the sign in sheet in setting.

Sports Day – Wednesday 10th July

Cross your fingers for good weather as sports day is back. Parents are invited to watch from 2pm. Again, if it is not your child's normal session time, please do bring them along so they can join us, but you must remain on site.

School Leavers / Graduation – Wednesday July 17th

This term we say goodbye to 12 of our children who are moving up to school – its lovely to see them enjoying their transition sessions at school. We will miss them, but we are also excited for the journey ahead of them.

Parents of school leavers are invited to join us at 2pm on 17th July as we reflect on their time with us and gift them their memory books.

End of term Disco – Friday July 19th

Our popular end of term disco returns! As per usual the evening will be split into two sessions:

- 5.30pm – 6.30pm- Early Years & Key stage 1 (Toddlers, Scallywags, Class 1 & 2)

Parents must accompany their children at this session.

- 7pm – 8.30pm - Key stage 2 & 3 (Class 3 & 4)

Parents must drop their children at the door and provide a contact telephone number before leaving.

Entrance cost is 50p and as usual we will have a tuck shop, glow sticks and temporary tattoos for sale.

Please note that the children will not be allowed to bring mobile phones to the disco, and for safety children in the lower age group will not be allowed to stay during the second session & vice versa.

FUNDRAISING

As always, your support with our fundraising is gratefully received! Please remember you can continue to support us over the summer by shopping at your favourite retailers online

via www.easyfundraising.org.uk Simply sign up for an account and select us as your cause – then when you shop at thousands of your favourite retailers online, we get some extra pennies in our pot without costing you extra!

Challenge £20.24 – June 2024

We hope all the children have enjoyed being able to get involved in our fundraising – every penny they have raised though this challenge goes straight back into Scallywags and it's lovely to think they have helped to contribute!

If there are any fundraising pots still to be returned, please do so asap so we can add up our totals!

Bag2School – Thursday July 11th

Our next collection for this will July 11th – letters and bags have already been sent home.

We're looking for donations of clothes and more (please see letter for full details) and these need to be dropped off at the entrance to the Parish Hall on the morning on the 11th – **BEFORE 9AM** please don't leave them overnight, but speak to staff if you cannot make it that morning.

We receive 40p per kilogram of clothes donated so every t-shirt can make a difference and it's a great opportunity to clear out some space at home too!

Eco Racing Virtual Balloon Race – Wednesday July 17th.

We last ran this event during the pandemic as it's completely online – but it was good fun and there is a chance of some super prizes. Simply visit <https://ecoracing.co/> and select Scallywags as your cause to reach our event page and to buy your balloon/s. Design your balloon with everything from shape, pattern colour and air composition up to you – balloons will be virtually released on July 17th and you can track progress on its way!

National Prizes include £100 and an Amazon Alexa Echo Dot (4th Gen) and we will have hampers for our top three racers from Scallywags! Please do share this event as the more that play the more fun and funds raised!

Parish Hall Bingo – Friday July 26th

Raising vital funds for the Parish Hall, including more work needed to Scallywags' Roof.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our events between now and the end of term – and we also wish you all a safe and fun summer holidays!

Lorna, Staff & Committee. chair.scallywags@outlook.com