

WINTER 2019 - A FIRST EDITION!! ISSUE NUMBER ONE

# COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER



**EVERY CHILD** at Vicarage Lodge Preschool will have recently brought home a letter introducing our new chairperson. As part of our ongoing commitment to communicating with parents, we will be issuing a newsletter every term. This will help to keep you all informed about

the vital work our volunteers provide behind the scenes. We will also use the opportunity to provide updates on fundraising and other important information relating to the committee.

## WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

The committee is made up of a group of individual volunteers who meet with preschool manager Mandy Blythe every term. You do not need to be a parent in order to be a volunteer of the charity. We are responsible for influencing a wide range of factors which affect how the charity is run and it is our duty to regularly meet and review its main objectives and activities. These can include such areas as organising fundraising, discussion of and decision making on any important issues raised by the members, altering or updating the charity's governing document and voting on any major changes to the charity business and its activities. Minutes from the meetings held are approved by the committee chair and can be found in the entrance porch at preschool.

## OUR CURRENT MEMBERS

are: Pete Edwardson (Chair), Suzanne Edwards (Secretary), Louise Lawless, Andrea Edwardson, Laura Walker. We are currently running at minimum numbers and are recruiting volunteers at [committeevlodge@gmail.com](mailto:committeevlodge@gmail.com)

## PROJECT PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our main fundraising focus still remains with upgrading the outdoor play area for the children. The first phase of our target is progressing nicely and this will be to secure three thousand pounds in order to provide wooden blocks for the children to explore their creative potential. We have obtained quotes from a few different companies and are working hard researching and applying for grants and funding from One Family Foundation, Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, Shell, Mersey Gateway Time Bank, Tesco Bags of Help and other organisations.



## XMAS FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Thanks to your kind support, we raised a fantastic £211.00 at the Christmas Festival on 29th November. Tickets from the children's nativity performance provided a further £139.50, along with a further £31.90 profit from the cards which you purchased. All monies raised over the Christmas period were used towards the Brindley Trip which allowed your children to attend free of charge and subsidise tickets for our helpers to attend, without whom none of this would have been possible.

# ASDA GREEN TOKENS

We have the chance of winning £500.00 (1st prize), or £200.00 (Runner up prize) from ASDA Runcorn if we get the most green tokens. The competition vote runs for three months. Please continue to support our cause.

# POINTING AT YOU

During routine building maintenance, we have identified the need to re-point the bricks at the exterior around the bottom perimeter of the building. We are calling upon families to provide recommendations for anyone you know locally who could carry out this work for us. If you have anyone in mind, please notify a member of staff or email us with details so we can contact them for a quote.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM for 2019 will take place on 24th January, at 7pm. An invite letter has been sent to parents and we are politely asking as many of you as possible attend the meeting. It is an opportunity for anyone interested in becoming a committee member to learn a little bit about what we do and how we operate. It also gives you a chance to meet our members and become involved in electing the new management committee for the next 12 months. There will also be reports provided by the preschool manager, committee chair and the financial administrator. Cheese, Wine and other refreshments will also be provided. For those of you with small children, a creche will also be available. Please note this is a grown-ups meeting so I'm afraid we are unable to accommodate older children.

# DISCLOSURE & BARRING SERVICE

Did you know that just like every member of staff at Vicarage Lodge, all management committee members are subject to a successful DBS check (Formerly CRB - Criminal Records Bureau), plus every management committee member is registered with OfSTED as having a link to the setting. For anyone interested in joining the committee, please note there is a nominal charge for the check, which can be reimbursed if needed.

# SHOP ONLINE TO RAISE PLAYGROUND FUNDING

Our combined use of Easyfundraising.org has to date earned us a total of £75.43 towards project playground. There are a total of 14 supporters who have signed up to the initiative and the committee would like to thank you all for your continued support. For anyone who hasn't yet signed up, but would like to - please contact us by email and we will send you a unique link which will earn us extra money for recommending new supporters

# PLANS FOR NEXT TERM

The committee last met on Tuesday 8th Jan and the full minutes from this meeting can be found in the entrance porch. Some events being planned for the upcoming terms include a Spring Fair and Kids Bingo, an egg decorating competition a pyjama party for the little ones and a fancy dress week to celebrate world book day. Full details will be sent out via the preschool staff soon with confirmed dates. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer committee member, or perhaps just want to help with planning fundraising ideas - our next fundraising meeting will take place on 8th March. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.

# UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL AND ACQUIRE NEW SKILLS

The rewards of becoming a volunteer committee member are plentiful. Not only will you achieve a sense of fulfilment for helping out your local community in a charitable way, but did you know that some of our members have even obtained first aid certificates and have completed defibrillator training along with Vicarage Lodge staff? Members can also access Educare training online which covers a whole variety of courses relevant to pre-school including safeguarding of children.



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