



## Newsletter September '14

### **This Term:**

It has been lovely to meet all of our new children who have started with us over the last few weeks. All have settled well and despite some of them being only just two, they have made full use of our space and lovely resources.

The term has already been full of learning: The children were greeted with a new outside sand kitchen when they came back into preschool after the long summer break and this has offered many opportunities for role play and imaginary mixes and potions.

We have also been tasting breads from around the world; from France to India, as well as having a go at making our own.....Which tasted great but ended up as an un-planned flat-bread!



**The sand kitchen with pots and pans, ready to go!**

Last week, having observed several of the boys' fascinations with dinosaurs, we painted large, purple dinosaur footprints up the garden path for the children to discover when they first went out to play. Over the course of the morning we all wondered what had happened, how the prints had got onto the playground, what sort of a creature it was etc. The children decided it was a T-Rex called Poppy who had stepped over the gate to come into our playground to look for food. She only came out at night so she didn't frighten us. They discovered that four of a child's footprints went into a dinosaur footprint, yet only two adult footprints, so we got in some maths too! We sang our favourite dinosaur song, made some food for her and also made some blue mouthwash – because she has "loads" of teeth!



**Dino prints in the playground**

As many of you know our lovely friend Liz has been very poorly since the end of the first week of term and remains in hospital. We have talked to the children about this and on Thursday, having read the story of "Harry and his Robots" we are going to make her some robots of our own to go "Blaaaaaast!" and hope that will help her to get better. We are in constant touch with her and her spirits are very good, despite having some hefty chemotherapy over the last two weeks.

### **Fundraising:**

Some of you may not be aware that preschool is a charity and as such we need to constantly raise funds to replace and update equipment at preschool. Over the last four years we have had no increase in our income from the government yet the cost of living has risen by over 30%. One way you could really help us is to join our fundraising team and/or support the events which we put on to augment our income.

**Bradninch Apple Day** on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October @ The Manor House, Parsonage Street, between 11am & 3pm. Bring along a bucket of apples to press and some money to spend



**The Great West Run** on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Two of our Trustees have put themselves through a gruelling training programme to run in this event – please either put money into the decorated box at preschool or sponsor on line at:

<https://mydonate.com/terms/duchyrunners> .... And remember to "gift aid" it too please!



**Donations Box decorated by Lily and her dad at preschool last week**

**Christmas Craft Fair** on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Guildhall, Bradninch. Meet Father Christmas, buy some special presents from our talented stall holders and sample some delicious cakes and produce from the Café we will be running from 10.30 to 3pm.

**Look out for more information nearer the time.**

### **Parents and Staff learning together**

As many of you are now aware we use the **Thrive** programme of activities and assessment to enhance our knowledge of your children and plan the best experiences for the nurturing of their well-being and learning. Mary has just completed training to deliver a **Family Thrive** programme – helping families use activities to better understand how a child's brain grows and develops and the positive impact this can have on their learning. We are planning to run this six week, free course after Christmas and we will contact you with details after the half term break.

#### **Term Dates for your reference:**

##### **Autumn 2014**

First day of term Monday 08 September

Last day of term Friday 12 December

Half term from Monday 27 to Friday 31 October

##### **Spring 2015**

First day of term Monday 5 January 2015

Last day of term Friday 27 March 2015

Half term from Monday 16 to Friday 20 February