



# Little Stars Pre-school

at Emmanuel Church

January 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Little Stars, with a special welcome to our new children and their families - we hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays. We would also like to welcome Sarah Corbett to the team, Sarah will be working on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

## Curriculum

As usual we will be focusing on children's interests and their stage of development however, we will also be incorporating: -

**Week 1** We will start the term settling the children back into preschool routine and talking about what we have been doing throughout the Christmas holidays and all the gifts they have received.

**Week 2** Rhyme Challenge - introducing the children to the Rhyme Challenge. The children will learn a song/rhyme each week and share this at home (more information further in the newsletter)

**Week 3** It is Chinese New Year this week so we will be looking at how it is celebrated.

**Week 4** Looking at the Winter season and the effect this has on our environment and the wildlife

**Week 5** As it is National Storytelling Week we would like to invite any of the children's relatives to come into pre-school and read stories to the children

**Week 6** Messy Play - creating pictures using a variety of different materials

We will also continue to have visits from Frank, our Vicar, and Melissa, our Children's and Families Worker. Frank reads to the children and Melissa brings music for the children to sing and dance along with.

### Snack bar and lunch club

We would like to include a variety of snacks for the children on our milk bar. Only certain foods are suitable due to children's allergies etc.

Please DO NOT send any foods that may contain NUTS or CHICKPEAS , as we have children with allergies.

Please could each child continue to bring in two pieces of different fruit or vegetables staggered throughout the week and occasionally a packet of the following - plain currant bread or raisin bread, bread sticks, bagels or pitta bread. Water will be provided for the children that do not drink milk.

**Library / Story Sacks**- We continue to have a small library which is available for you to use. It is set out each day at the end of the session. Please feel free to help yourself, cards are provided for you to complete so that we can keep a track on which books are with whom. As our Library, we have our Story sacks for you to take home to share with your child and family. A List of Story Sacks can be found on the Parent Board and on the white board as you come into Preschool. Each **Story Sack** is a teaching and learning resource, containing books along with supporting materials to help make sharing the book more engaging and interesting. Every Sack has an inventory attached to help you to remember what items are in each Sack, please could you to check this before returning it. If you would like to take a story sack home please see a member of staff who will sign it out for you.

### Rhyme Challenge

We will be re-introducing the Rhyme Challenge this term as children love singing and learning new rhymes and songs because it's fun! But the rhymes and repetition are very important in helping them with :

- developing speech sounds and listening skills
- reading and spelling - it helps children make links between spoken sounds and how they make up words.

They are also great for helping children:

- develop their imaginations
- develop social skills such as taking turns and joining in - often the quietest child cannot resist singing along to a favourite song, especially the ones with actions!

Every week this term the children will learn a song/rhyme at Little Stars - they will also bring home a written copy of it which they can colour in if they want to, and build up their own little book at home. Some of them they may already know and be very familiar with, others may be less well known. Please encourage your child by asking them about what they have been singing/saying, and joining in with the rhymes and actions with them.

## **Reminders:**

### ***Collection of children/passwords***

If you would like your child to be collected by somebody other than yourself you will need to sign the signing out register when you drop off in the morning. If we are not familiar with the person picking up then you will need to inform them of your password. We will not be able to release your child unless the password is given. Please give your keyperson a password that can be used for these occasions. If your child is regularly collected by somebody other than yourself e.g. childminder, grandparents etc. please put this in writing and then it will not be necessary for you to sign the register every time this person collects.

### ***Contact details***

Please let us know if and when you change any contact details - home address, emails or telephone numbers.

### ***Suitable clothes for the season!***

Children are given the choice to go outside every day, so please ensure they come with a NAMED warm coat, hat and gloves and suitable footwear.

### ***Non-attendance***

A reminder that it is important to let us know if your child is going to be absent for whatever reason, holiday, sickness or health appointment. We have to document absences by way of a code on our register.

**Parent Helpers** - We would love any parent help, it does not have to be for a whole morning, just an hour would be amazing. This will give you an opportunity to experience some of the activities that take place and the children are excited to have mum or dad or grandparents help at their pre-school. If you would like help in any way please talk to a member of staff.

A huge thank you to you all for your continued support.

Diana Hamilton, Emma Knight, Suzanne Hoslett, Amy Toms,  
Amy Byres, Brenda Pownall, Kirsty Harris, Lee Trenchard,  
Kate Torocsik, Sarah Corbett,