We hope you all had a wonderful half term, kicking the Autumn leaves, collecting conkers and perhaps enjoying a little Halloween fun with your children. The Autumn term started very well and we are looking forward to all the fun and learning we will have in the lead up to the Christmas festivities and holiday. This is our half termly newsletter which we email or give out to Parent/Carers and upload onto our website – www.picklespreschool.co.uk

30th Oct – 3rd November – **Halloween and Firework** – Pumpkin carving, Halloween fancy dress (31st October) and disco, enjoying the story “What’s in the witch’s kitchen” (Nick Sharratt), talking about Firework safety and creating firework picture.

6th – 10th November – **The Three Little Pigs** – Making houses of bricks, sticks and straw, using our Story Sack to bring the traditional story to life, play with the farmyard and animals, creating piggy noses and talking about stranger danger.

13th - 17th November – **Goldilocks and the Three Bears** – Porridge as messy/sensory play, size and measuring (Maths), Teddy Bears Picnics at snack time (please can children bring in their favourite bear, do ensure it is named) – “sharing is caring” (our Golden Rules) – using our Story Sack to retell the story.

20th – 24th November – **Winter** – Cutting snowflakes, exploring ice and the concept of melting, hot chocolate and marshmallows for snack, role play with Winter animals and learning about hibernation, our book of the week will be “Polar Bear, Polar Bear what do you see?” (Eric Carle), singing and dancing to the songs from Disney’s “Frozen”.

27th – 1st December – **Gingerbread Man** - Decorating Gingerbread men biscuit, exploring fractions (¼ ½), enjoying the story with props, using rhyming words to encourage language.

Dates for your diary

**Tuesday 31st October – Halloween Fancy Dress and Disco** – Children can come to Pre-School in fancy dress of their choice and enjoy dancing to the “Monster Mash” and the “Time Warp”.

**Carpet Time Talking week by week.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Commencing</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Makaton Sign</th>
<th>Language of the Week</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30th October</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>circle</td>
<td>orange</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Arabic – “As-salamu alaykum”</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th November</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>oval</td>
<td>pink</td>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>Bulgarian - pronounced “zdrah-VEY”</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th November</td>
<td>q</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>square</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>Teddy Bear</td>
<td>English - “Hello”</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th November</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>triangle</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>Snow</td>
<td>Italian - “Ciao”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th November</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>rectangle</td>
<td>brown</td>
<td>Book</td>
<td>Bengali – “আসসালামু আলাইকুম” (pronounced “assalamu alaikum”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th December</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>diamond</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>Father Christmas</td>
<td>Telegu - “Namaskārām”</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th December</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>star</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>Christmas Tree</td>
<td>Krio - Kushē (pronounced “koo-sheh”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monday 6th Nov (Afternoon) & Friday 10th Nov (Morning)
– “Captured Moments” Photographer will be visiting. The photographer will visit us on two sessions so to capture as many children as possible. If your child does not attend on a Friday morning or a Monday afternoon then feel free to pop in first thing on Friday 10th November for your child’s picture to be taken. The photos will make great Christmas gifts for your family.
13th - 17th November – Teddy Bears Picnics - Please can children bring in a favourite Teddy Bear (named) for our picnic snacks this week.
Friday 17th November - Children in Need Pyjama Day - Children can wear their PJ’s to Pre-School and Parent/Carers can donate to the charity in our collection bucket. We will enjoy some Pugsey Bear activities and talk about the charity and children less fortunate.

Wednesday 6th December 2017 – Our Christmas Show – 9:20 am in the School Hall. Children to arrive at 9:05am as usual. Costumes details to follow. Many parents will wish to take photos and video of their children in the show. We ask that photos and video of the children is for personal viewing only and it is not uploaded to social media (not on Facebook etc). If you are concerned about your child featuring in the photos and video of others you may choose for your child not to participate in the Christmas Show. If Wednesday morning isn’t your child’s usual session to attend Pre-School they can still take part in the show and you can pick them up from our classroom afterwards and take them home (or they can return to Cherry Tree Nursery if they attend there in the morning). Shhhhh…. It is hoped that Father Christmas will arrive at the end of the show and deliver gifts to the children.

Week commencing 11/12/17 Christmas Party Week – The children can dress up as they wish all week. We are hoping Parent/Carers can contribute £5.00 towards the cost of Party Week, which will cover the cost of a gift from Father Christmas, the prizes and party fun activities.
Friday 15th December - Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day 2017. We will join the fun, invite you all to wear your silly festive knits and make donations in our collection bucket to help save children’s lives.

Friday 15th December - End of Term – As usual our All-Day/Afternoon Session will end at 3:05pm.
Thursday 4th January 2018 – The Spring Term starts.

Wednesday 10th January 2018 - Parent Consultation in the Spring Term – 4pm – 6pm in the Cherry Tree School Hall. Please arrive via the Berry Avenue main entrance to the school. Closer to the date you will be allocated a time to chat with your child’s Key Person, to look at your child’s Learning Journal, share in all they have enjoyed and learnt and discuss their interests and development. Additionally I can book a time for you to meet with our Manager and Special Needs Co-ordinator, Sarah Wickham, if you wish.

What’s NEW?
Pick Up Times – Our Morning session finishes at 12:05pm and our All-Day/Afternoon Session finishes at 15:05pm. We stress that children are picked up on time. A Parent/Carers late arrival causes children to be upset additionally many of the staff team have their own children to collect from other schools. As all parents were told, in your child’s Welcome Session and it is also in your Parent Pack, there is a later pick up fee of £2.00 for every 5 minutes a parent/carer is late.

Hours for the Spring Term 2017 – Please let Lynsey know as soon as possible if you wish to change your child’s hours for the Spring Term 2018. Due to our popularity and good name we are running at capacity however we can put your child on the waiting list for additional sessions and then contact parent/carers to discuss if a space becomes available.

Emergency Contact Number – If you need to contact Pre-School in an emergency during Pre-School hours please call the Cherry Tree School number (01923 245490) and ask to be put through to “Pre-School” in The Community Room. Please do not call the mobile number in this case as Lynsey may not be at the setting and our mobiles are stored in a box during the day.
**Absent/illness** – Please text or call **07870 628045** before 8:30am to let us know if your child is sick or is going to be absent that day. If we do not hear from you then it is our duty to ring Parents to find out why a child is not in attendance.

**Water Bottles** – Please can we ask that parents check that the lids of water bottles are secured tightly and that water bottles are not cracked or damaged. Also please can water bottles not be placed in Book Bags. We have had a few accidents this half term with water bottles leaking and ruining our Pre-School library books. All water bottles to be named.

**Nursery Rhyme/Song of the Month:** Our Christmas Show finale will be – “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”. Please practise singing this song with your child and then we will sing this to each other at the end of their show.

“We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year

Good tidings we bring  
to you and your kin  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year”

**Makaton Signs we will learn and use:**

Facebook page – “Like” our “Pickles Pre-School” Facebook page so to stay up to date with our news, events and information.

If you have any questions or queries or if we can be of any additional support to you or your child please do not hesitate to ask me or a member of our Pickles Pre-School team.

Kind regards,

Lynsey Pickles – 01923 223538 – Lynsey.preschool@gmail.com - www.picklespreschool.co.uk

Cherry Tree School Office Number – 01923 245490

Staff Team – Sarah, Kaneez, Dawn, Beverley, Barbara, Dimple, Jenni and Sam

Volunteer – Masooma