NEWSLETTER

 FEBRUARY 2018

In the event of SNOW and ICE **all** parents will receive either a phone call or text to tell you whether COG will be open or closed.

Please make sure that COG has your most up to date contact information, so that you do not miss the call/text

Please note that half term is from Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2018.

During this term the children will be celebrating the following events :-

 SHROVE TUESDAY – 13th February (Pancakes)

 VALENTINES DAY - 14th February (Cards)

CHINESE NEW YEAR – The Year of the DOG

From February 16th to 2nd March. (Chinese food, model making etc)

 MOTHERING SUNDAY – 11th March (cards)

EASTER – up to 29th March (cards, Easter bonnets etc)

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World Book day is on Thursday 1st March and we hope you will all help us celebrate by getting your child to dress up as their favourite book character in exchange for £1. This is your chance to get creative and we may be able to get our picture in the Bolton News.

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We will be holding an Easter raffle for some Easter baskets made by Daniel Kenny’s mum and other Easter goodies. If you would like to donate items that we could raffle, such as Easter eggs, chocolates, toiletries etc. that we can make up into baskets, or you have any baskets we could use for this purpose please bring them in or give them to the escort if your child comes on transport. Watch out for the raffle tickets coming home with your child.

We break up for Easter on Thursday 29th March, the draw will take place the week before.

If you child currently attends COG for 5 mornings (15 hrs) but you would like to exchange a couple of mornings for a couple of afternoons, we now have play sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. We can still only offer 15hrs and unfortunately cannot offer transport for the afternoons, but if you are interested please have a word with the nursery manager.

Since the last newsletter we said goodbye to Danielle Walton on 8/12/17 and also Jenny Exley on 7/1/18 and Marian Taylor left on 31/12/17, but has become a Trustee of the group.

Chloe Barnes had her baby boy and has called him Joseph, mum and baby doing well.

This term we welcomed Kylie Baines who has taken over Sharon Brown’s position, Tazeen Saleemi, who is covering Chloe’s Maternity leave and a big welcome back to Justine Baines-Townsend who has returned to us after a 12 months absence, to replace Jenny.

Cheryl Wyatt will be holding a drop in session on Wednesday 14th March 2018 from 9.30 to 11.30am. If you have any Education or Social Care queries she will be able to help.

AND

Did you know that COG is a partner in the Hospice Lottery and also BWFC Goldline & Lifeline Lotteries? This means that should you join either lottery, using one of our dedicated application forms, 45p of every pound you pledge to the Hospice and 70p of every £1 you pledge to BWFC will be donated to COG. This year our share of the monies paid by our supporters to the Hospice was £225. The minimum payment is £1 per week for the Hospice, £1 per week to the Goldline and £2 per week to the Lifeline, it can be paid by Direct Debit, Cheque or Credit/Debit card. There are big weekly/monthly prizes.

**HOSPICE LOTTERY** – up to £1000 weekly

**GOLDLINE** - £500 every weekday, £100s in consolation prizes and up to £5000 in the Goldline extra draw.

**LIFELINE** - £2000 weekly, 10 x £50 consolation prizes and up to £7500 in the Rollover draw.

For more information and an Application form/s for either or all lotteries please speak to Annette in the office

As we all know times are tight when it comes to money. The statutory funding that COG receives, along with all other nurseries and playgroups, within Bolton, is insufficient to cover our running costs, particularly the costs of the minibus. If you have any fundraising ideas we would love to hear about them.

Over the last few months, The Weaver’s Arms have had a collecting tin on the bar and have raised £155. Do you know a pub or shop who would like to have a collecting tin. Please see Annette in the office.

The Christmas Raffle didn’t raise quite as much as usual, making a profit of just under £500. Thanks to all who donated items for the hamper and other prizes and to everyone for selling the tickets, without you it wouldn’t be the success it always is.

ASDA Foundation £200.00

Egerton Reformed Church £90.001

St Margaret’s Church £50.001

Meridian Business Sales £705.002

Weavers Arms (collecting Tin) £71.55

1. Towards the cost of Christmas presents
2. Towards the minibus running costs

Once again, throughout 2017, the staff at Meridian Business Sales have held their dress down Fridays in aid of COG and this year have collected donations totalling £705. This is the fourth year they have supported us, and it always amazes me how much they raise. Their donation goes towards the running costs of the minibus. If you know of a business who might be interested in doing this for us, please let us know.