 All Saints Preschool

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**September Newsletter**  We hope you all had a lovely summer break; all the children are happy to be back. We would like to welcome all our new starters to Preschool, it has been lovely to meet all the new parents and children.

**Vegetable patch**  The children are over the moon with our Vegetable Patch and what we have managed to grow! We have tasted our very own strawberries, peppers and tomatoes and grew 2 huge marrows which have been taken home by children and used for dinner time…yummy. Our sunflower is taller than all the grownups.

**Healthy lunch box & grapes** we are really pleased that most lunch boxes are healthy at present we would just like to remind you that nuts, sweets, and large chocolate bars are not allowed. Grapes are fantastic but **do need to be cut in half** long ways as they are a choking hazard.

**Fire prevention week** we will be spending this week looking at fire safety with the children, if you have fire dress up please dress your child up but please label all parts. We have the fire brigade visiting which is very exciting. This is a great opportunity for you to discuss your home and what you can do as a family if a fire broke out and more importantly how to prevent fires, your child will love bringing their learning from preschool to home.

**Harvest** During October we will be looking at Harvest. We would like to collect tins, packets and long life food to help the collections at the church.

**Potty/toilet training** Due to lots of children potty/toilet training at present, which is amazing! We are asking that children have Velcro trainers or crocs. If using pull ups please ensure they have a side fastening (it takes a long time to undress and dress each child) and ensure enough pants, socks and trousers are in their bags as we have a shortage of socks and correct loose-fitting clothes. Please could all bottles be put on the white trolley in the morning.

**Fundraising**

**Pumpkin event** we will be looking at pumpkins, pumpkin soup and carving pumpkins at the end of October. We are happy for spooky costumes all week. We are looking forward to lots of sticky, gooey and slimy activities.

**Funding** Helpful information-if both parents work 16 hours each or more, or a single parent family who works 16 hours, and your child turns 3 before the end of December you **can apply for 30 hours free childcare**. We recommend applying 3 months before their 3rd birthday. You will be told if you qualify or not and given a code if successful. If you already have a code, please make sure you login regularly to update the account so you do not miss deadlines. This is on the government website. Charlotte or Katy Toms can help with any questions. If you are a low-income family then you could qualify for **15 hours free childcare when your child is 2 years old.** This form can be completed on Hampshire County council website. (Same as school applications if you have an account already).

**Dates for your diary**

* Friday 1st October **Inset Day**
* Friday 22nd October **Pumpkin event**
* Monday 25th October to Friday 29th **half term**
* Tuesday 14TH December **Nativity in the church (provisionally booked)**
* Wednesday 15th December **Christmas Party**
* Thursday 16th & Friday 17th December **Inset Days**
* Wednesday 15th December **Last day of term**
* Tuesday 4th January **Return to preschool**