



## April 2019

Welcome back to another busy half term at pre-school.

Please be aware that we always encourage child initiated play and learning and follow the children's ideas or interests. Therefore, this may take us away from the planned topics or activities.

This half term our main topics will be **Colours and Numbers**:

Week commencing	Topic/s	Colour of the week
22nd April	Colours	Multi-coloured
29th April	Numbers	Pink
6th May	Numbers	Purple
13th May	Shapes	Blue
20th May	Shapes	Red

Each day we will offer a craft activity, generally linked to the topic of the week, but children are also encouraged to investigate the wide selection of resources available. Therefore, items made on the craft table will often vary and reflect the children's interests, preferences and exploration of the available resources.

Craft activities can get messy and whilst we do encourage the children to wear aprons we cannot guarantee that items of clothing will remain clean. Please encourage your child to wear clothing that is not too special and allows them freedom of movement.

### **COFFEE MORNING – FRIDAY 10TH MAY 9.15 am**

Everyone is welcome, even if your child does not usually attend on a Friday they will be more than welcome to join us in the setting whilst you are having a tea or coffee. We do ask that you remain on the premises if your child does not normally attend on this day of the week.

Coffee Mornings are an opportunity for you to look at your child's Learning Journal, however if you are not able to attend you are welcome to ask your child's key-worker to see their Learning Journal at any other time.

### **PHOTOGRAPHER - TUESDAY 14TH MAY 09:10 am**

A local photographer, Jeremy Chichester-Miles will be attending the pre-school on Tuesday 14th May. Please follow this link to see his recent work: <https://heartsphotography.co.uk> . As in previous years we plan to have a whole group photo first and then the children can have individual photos.

The photographer is happy to take photos of siblings and these will be taken after the group photo. We ask you to wait in reception with any siblings and we will bring your children out one at a time. You are under no obligation to purchase the photos, pre-school does receive a small percentage of the sales. If your child does not attend on this day you are welcome to join us for the photograph.

### **IMPORTANT ALLERGY REMINDER**

May I remind you that we have a child attending the setting who has a severe allergy to **sesame** which has the potential to cause an anaphylactic reaction.

For this child the allergic reaction can be triggered by sesame in their environment. We would therefore like to request that children attending the setting do not arrive in the mornings eating anything that contains sesame. If your child has had a product containing sesame for breakfast could you please ensure that they have washed their hands and face and do not have any traces of the product on their clothing.

Many thanks for your consideration regarding this matter.

### **SHOW AND TELL ITEMS**

PLEASE label any items your child brings from home to show at the beginning of the session and avoid bringing anything valuable or precious. We try to encourage a link to the topic or colour of the week. However if a particular item will help your child come to pre-school confidently then that is fine.

### **LABELLING**

PLEASE remember to label your child's bag, coat and anything else they may want to bring in. A clear label on the strap or a tag of their bag makes things much easier for us when a child's nappy or clothing needs to be changed, or at home time when we are putting out the coats and bags. We do plan to go to the allotment throughout the coming months so please make sure your child has clothing suitable for outdoors, muddy activities and that all items are named. Thank you.

### **FOOTWEAR - WELLIES, CROCS AND SANDALS**

If the weather is wet and your child is wearing wellies to pre-school please ensure that you bring a pair of shoes or plimsoles for them to change into during the morning.

As the weather hopefully warms up this half term can we please ask that the children do not wear Crocs to pre-school and that sandals are well fitted. It is very clear to staff that the children are less safe on the climbing equipment and soft play when wearing Crocs or poorly fitting sandals.

### **ALLOTMENT**

Now that the weather appears to be getting warmer we hope to get to the allotment as often as possible. We can only go to the allotment if we have a parent helper so please help us if you can. Mrs Trussler and Mrs Toy have been busy over the holiday preparing the allotment for the new growing season.

Trips to the allotment depart after registration, at approximately 09:30, and can be as long or short as you can accommodate. We usually find that a round trip of one hour is enough for most children but if you can offer more or less time we would welcome your support.

We hope to offer every child frequent opportunities to visit the allotment. The group of children visiting on a particular day is selected on a rota basis. Please be aware that if you do offer to help, your child may not be

part of the group on that day. We really appreciate all your support and the children always thoroughly enjoy the trips. If you are able to help please sign up on the 'Allotment Parent Helper Rota' located in the reception area.

### **LIBRARY BOOKS**

We continue to have the library box of books available for you borrow and share with your child. Please remember to mark in the 'Library Log' when you take and return a book. We hope you enjoy and make use of this resource.

### **HELPING**

Helping at pre-school is great fun. It is a perfect opportunity to see what your child gets up to and an extra pair of hands is always a help to us. Once your child has settled please sign up if you can on the 'Parent Helper Rota' located in the reception area

### **HOMETIME PROCEDURE**

Please remember to inform a member of staff and sign the 'Going Home Book' if someone we have not met before is picking up your child.

### **HELPER OF THE DAY**

Each day we have a child 'helper of the day'. All of the children will get a turn to be the helper and are given the opportunity to complete small, manageable, but important tasks throughout the morning. The helper of the day will also bring home 'Doug the Dog' for an overnight visit. Doug comes with a book that you can record his visit in. This is very much meant to be an enjoyable experience and not "homework". You can include photos and or notes but please do not feel obliged to do either.

### **ABSENCE AND ILLNESS**

Please notify us in advance, or on the day, if you child is going to be absent from one or more pre-school sessions. In the case of illness please keep your child at home for 48 hours after their last bout of illness. Sickness and diarrhoea can spread very quickly so we would appreciate everyone following these procedures.

### **SNACK TIME**

Thank you very much for your contributions towards our daily snack.

### **WEBSITE**

The pre-school website is gradually becoming less of a work in progress and hopefully more of a useful working resource. Please visit the 'News' section which is now being regularly updated with reminders of specific dates in the pre-school calendar and photographs of the various activities the children have been getting up to, which may not have appeared in the Photo Journal. You will also find a section of the website containing the 'Latest Newsletter'. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the website please let a member of staff know.

## **CONTACT WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**

If you have an interest, hobby, skill or event of cultural significance that you would like to share with the pre-school children, please talk to a member of staff. We welcome any input and thoroughly enjoy having visitors.

### **AND FINALLY:**

**We always try to make ourselves available to talk to you but this is not always possible first thing in the morning as settling the children is our main priority.** If you need to tell us something urgently then we will always make time for you but otherwise it is more convenient for members of staff to talk at the end of the session when we have more time. If the subject is of a private or confidential nature please let us know and we can make the office available for conversation.

If you have any concerns please share them with us. We are here to help and to make this a positive experience for everyone.

Many thanks

The Pre-School Team