



Waltham Pre-School

Newsletter Autumn Term 2 Room 1

October 2023

Welcome to our Autumn Term 2 Newsletter - we hope you find the information useful. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the main Pre-School office where we will be happy to help.

The children have all quickly settled into the new academic year and the routines in Room 1. We have had a lovely half term exploring our environments both inside and outside and have really enjoyed the Harvest Season; taking trips to the allotments, food tasting and even making our own Pre-School scarecrow!

Staffing Update

Sadly we will be saying goodbye to our Room 1 Leader, Miss Weed in November. She has been at Pre-School for over 7 years and will be greatly missed. We all wish her lots of luck and happiness in her new job. More information about our new Room 1 Leader will follow shortly via Tapestry.

Date for your Diary

Christmas Craft Morning - Tuesday 5th December at 10am

We look forward to inviting you in to make some Christmas crafts with your child. More details will follow via Tapestry.

Story of the Week

This term we will include reading books based around our topic of 'winter' as well as books and topics around the children's interests. Each week a book will be shared, and activities and interests built around the themes within the book. We hope that this approach will help stimulate and build upon a love of reading. If you have a copy of the books at home, pre-reading of each book will help support and enhance your child's understanding of the text. Books for the half term will be:

Wb. 30.10	Room on the Broom	Wb. 27.11	Stickman
Wb. 6.11	Ferdie and the Falling Leaves	Wb. 4.12	Santa comes to Grimsby
Wb. 13.11	Sharing the Shell	Wb. 11.12	Nativity
Wb. 20.11	A Huge Bag of Worries		

As Bonfire night, Divali, Remembrance Day, Christmas and Winter are approaching, we will be enhancing our environments with relevant activities and resources this half term.

Independence Skills

We will be focusing on supporting the children with finding and recognising their own coats, dressing and undressing and being able to self-feed using a spoon and fork during this half term. Your support in developing these skills at home will enable a consolidated approach.

Pre-school Website

Our new website is now live. The website is regularly updated with all our Pre-school information and events. Our website can be found at www.walthampreschool.org

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club opens at 7.30am and breakfast is served between 7.30 -8.30. No food will be served after this time to enable staff to help the children get ready to go to school / into their Pre-school rooms for the day, as well as tidy up the areas ready for the Pre- school day. If you would like your child to have breakfast in their session, please ensure that they arrive by 8.25 am at the latest.

Hot Lunches

A copy of the full lunch menu for this term, including the light tea options, is available on our website. An electronic copy is also attached to this Newsletter.

Tapestry

A reminder that Tapestry is used to record children's development and progress records. If you have a query or question, please speak to your child's keyworker or contact the main office. If requests are made through Tapestry e.g. for additional sessions or a change in collection for that day, they do not get picked up until a practitioner logs on and therefore a response will be delayed.

Facebook

Our Facebook page **Waltham Pre-School** is active; please drop by and give us a 'like'. The page is used to share information and celebrate learning. Again, if you have a query, please do not ask on our Facebook page as it may get missed.

Clothing

Please ensure;

- children's tops, coats and bags are named to reduce the likelihood of them being mislaid
- children have a change of clothes in their bags for times that they need a change of clothing
- your child has appropriate clothing to suit the changing weather

Packed Lunches

If you are providing your child with a packed lunch, please ensure grapes, tomatoes, etc. are quartered to reduce the risk of choking. Also, a reminder that we promote healthy eating in our setting and would appreciate your support in ensuring that packed lunches contain healthy choices. Unfortunately we do not have facilities for warming packed lunch foods up at lunchtime.

30-Hour Funding

All children are entitled to 15 hours Universal funding from the term following their third birthday. Under certain circumstances children are allowed an additional 15 hours Extended funding, generally known as '30-hour Funding'. This is again available from the term following the child's third birthday.

For information regarding all funding available and to apply for the 15 hours Extended funding please go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. If you wish to apply for the extended funding to begin in January, you must apply and return your DERN code to the pre-school prior to the Christmas holiday.

Existing 30-Hour Funded Children

Having obtained 15 hours Extended funding you **must** ensure that you revalidate your claim **before** your allocated end-date. Failure to do this will result in you not being eligible for the funding from January and having to pay for any hours over the 15 universal hours taken.

Tax-Free Childcare

You may or may not already be aware of the Government's Tax-Free Childcare offer. This is available to all working parents. Visit the Government website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for more information on how you could potentially save money on your childcare costs.

If you need any information relating to your child's funding, please see Mrs Rawcliffe in the office.

Writes Photographers

The photographer will be in Pre-school during the morning of **Thursday 2nd November**. If your child does not attend pre-school on this day, please speak to a member of staff to arrange an appointment between 8.30 and 11.00am.

The photographer will be taking sibling group photos from 8.15am. This **must** be booked via the main preschool office to enable us to ensure that numbers are manageable.

Fundraising / Dressing Up

- **Children in Need - Spotacular - Friday 17th November.**

Children are invited to join in our fundraising for Children in Need this year by coming to Pre-School wearing anything with spots for a suggested donation of £1.00.

- **Save The Children - Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 7th December**

Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers for the day for a suggested donation of £1.00. All donations will be sent to the Save the Children Charity.

- **Hello Yellow Day**

Thank you for your kind donations for our recent Hello Yellow fundraiser. We were delighted to be able to send £32.00 to the Young Minds Matter charity.

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Lunch will be served on Thursday 14th December. Children who are normally booked in for a hot meal on that day will automatically have a Christmas lunch. If your child normally has a packed lunch on that day and you would like them to have a Christmas lunch, please book through the main office by Friday 8th December.

Outdoor Area

As the colder weather is now here and your child will be able to access the outdoor area at all times, could you please ensure you provide your child with **named** waterproof clothing and wellies.

Emergency Closure

Although we will always endeavor to keep our pre-school provision open, there may be occasions when the pre-school may have to close, for example due to extreme weather. In the event of a closure, it will be announced on Lincs FM.

Due to our continued running costs all fees will still remain payable.

All About Me

On the front page of your child's Tapestry online Learning Journal there is a section called All About Me. We would really appreciate you spending a little time to complete the information about your child, even if they have been attending Waltham Pre-School for a while. This learning journal is part of the smooth transition into The Leas Academy and both providers find the information a useful tool to gain a complete picture of your child enabling the best outcomes. Please access from the Tapestry website and not the app.

Half-Term Holiday Club

The Pre-school is closed for half-term week beginning 23rd October. Please ensure that you have contacted the office prior to Friday 20th October if you need your child booking into any holiday club sessions for 2-11 year olds. Nursery will be open as normal during the half-term break.

Christmas Holiday Club

We will be running our Holiday Club on the following dates:

- Monday 18th to Friday 22nd December inclusive
- Tuesday 2nd January

Please ensure that you have contacted the office prior to Friday 15th December if you need your child booking into any Holiday Club sessions.

End of Term

Pre-school (Rooms 1 and 2) will close on **Friday 15th December** and reopen on **Wednesday 3rd January 2024**.

The Nursery will close on **Friday 22nd December** and reopen **Tuesday 2nd January 2024**.

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