



Waltham Pre-School

Newsletter Autumn Term 2 Room 2

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 had a great start to the new academic year over the last half term. The staff have enjoyed getting to know all the children and learning about the things they like. The children have enjoyed the topic 'Ourselves' and it has quickly developed positive relationships between children and staff. We have been promoting British Values and learning about the Harvest Festival.

Date for your diaries - Our Christmas celebration with parents this year will be a Christmas Concert in our Pre-School Hall. There will be two performances on the mornings of Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th December at 10am. Each child will perform on one of the dates and we will send out further information as soon as groups have been organised.

Themes - Story of the Week

This half term we will be reading a range of animal, Autumn and Christmas stories by different authors. 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	Pumpkin Soup	20.11	Hodgeheg	11.12	The Nativity
6.11	Stanley's Stick	27.11	Owl Babies		
13.11	Binny's Divali	4.12	Stick Man		

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.

The children are being encouraged towards independence by hanging up, putting on and fastening their own coats. We would appreciate parents/carers help in this matter.

Makaton Signs of the Week

Oct 30 th	- fruit	Nov 20 th	- Flower	Dec 11 th	- To sit
Nov 6 th	- Sandwich	Nov 27 th	- Milk		
Nov 13 th	- Dog	Dec 4 th	- To stand		

Interest Table

The interest table this term will be colours. Children are encouraged to bring in an item from home:

Oct 30 th	- black	Nov 20 th	- bronze	Dec 11 th	- Xmas colours / smells
Nov 6 th	- white	Nov 27 th	- silver		
Nov 13 th	- grey	Dec 4 th	- gold		

Please note, only one item per week

Could children also be discouraged from bringing other toys and teddies into the setting unless it is for the interest table. It is very likely that they may get lost!

Pre-school Website

Our new website is now live. The website is regularly updated with all our Pre-school information and 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, 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, hats, scarves 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, including socks / tights

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.

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 main Pre-School office.

Wrates 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 begins to arrive and your child is be able to access the outdoor area at all times, 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.

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. The Nursery room will be open as normal during the half term break.

Christmas Holiday Club (2-11 year olds)

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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