



Waltham Pre-School

Newsletter Spring Term 1 Room 2

December 2023

Welcome to our Spring Term Newsletter - we hope you find the information useful. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the main pre-school office where we will be happy to help.

We have had a really lovely Autumn half term in Room 2. The children have been learning about Autumn and loved learning about the nature living in our garden. The children have also been participating in a range of listening and attention games; we have noticed a real improvement in these skills during circle time activities. We have enjoyed celebrating Halloween, Bonfire and Christmas as well as thoroughly enjoying learning about hedgehogs and owls.

Story of the Week

After Christmas, our theme will be traditional tales. We have chosen stories with a familiar pattern and will focus on a different story every two weeks. Activities and interests will be built around the themes within the books. There will be a range of child initiated and adult directed activities.

Wb. 3.1.24 / 8.1.24 - Goldilocks and the three Bears

Wb. 15.1.24 / 22.1.24 - The three Little Pigs

Wb. 29.1.24 / 5.2.24 - The three Billy Goats Gruff

Phonics

This term we will be focusing on Level 1 phonics to prepare the children for learning letter sounds next term. We will be focusing on rhyming words e.g. which word rhymes with bat?, alliteration e.g. can you tell me a word that starts with the same sound as cat? and oral blending and segmenting eg c-a-t, cat. Further information will be attached to this newsletter.

As Winter is approaching, we will be enhancing our environments with Winter activities and resources. We will be celebrating the Chinese New Year the week commencing Monday 5th February.

Christmas Nativity

Just a quick thank you for your support with our preparations for our Christmas Nativity this year. Costume preparation and practicing our songs with the children has been really helpful and we are all counting down the days to showcase our performances of The Wriggley Nativity next week.

Christmas Thanks

A big thank you is being sent to Robinson's Farm Shop for very kindly donating the oranges for the Christingles in Room 2. The children have enjoyed making the Christingles and learning about their meaning at this special time of year.

Room 2 Out of School Club

Out of School Club for our Room 2 children will be moving into Room 1 from January 2024. Collection between 3.15pm and 6pm will be from the Room 1 door.

Application for School Places September 2023

A reminder that the deadline for applying for your child to go to school in September, is 15th January 2024. If you need any help or guidance with the application, please speak to Mrs Chidwick.

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.

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
- named hat, gloves and scarves are provided for colder weather

We have a lot of lost property in pre-school at the moment and ask that you discourage your child from bringing in toys and personal items which may easily get lost.

Existing 30-Hour Funded Children

Having obtained 15 hours Extended funding (Total 30 hours) 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.

Fundraising

A big thank you for supporting our recent fundraising events this term. We have raised £55.00 for Children in Need. We will be taking part in Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 7th December where we invite children to wear their festive outfits for a suggested donation of £1. All money raised will go to the national Save the Children charity.

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 Tapestry and shared on our Facebook page.

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

Spring Term Hot Lunch Menu

A copy of the full lunch menu for Spring Term, including tea options, is available on our website- please click on the following link to view.

[Lunch Menu](#)

Packed Lunches

We actively promote 'Healthy Eating' in our setting and try to encourage the children to make healthy food choices. All our hot meal options are carefully selected and balanced in line with NHS Start for life recommendations. A copy of our Packed Lunch Policy accompanies this newsletter as guidance for preparing your child's Pre-school packed lunch at home.

End of Term

- Pre-school (Rooms 1 and 2) will close on **Friday 15th December** and reopen on **Wednesday 3rd January**.
- Nursery closes on **Friday 22nd December** and reopens on **Tuesday 2nd January**.
- Primary OOSC closes on **Wednesday 20th December** and reopens on **Wednesday 3rd January**.

December Holiday Club

A reminder that we will be running a Holiday Club for Pre-school and Primary age children for the week beginning **Monday 18th December through to Friday 22nd December** and also on **Tuesday 2nd January**. To enable us to organise staffing for the Holiday Club, please book places via the main pre-school office as soon as possible and by no later than Wednesday 13th December.

February Half-Term Holiday Club

The pre-school is closed for half-term week beginning 12th February. A Holiday Club for Pre-school and Primary age children will be available for the full week. Please ensure that you have contacted the office prior to **Friday 2nd February** if you need your child booking into any holiday club sessions. Nursery is open as normal during this week.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the year and to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Waltham Pre-School.

