



# Waltham Pre-School

## Newsletter Spring Term 1 Room 1

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.

The children have had a lovely Autumn half term and we have made great use of our outdoor areas. The children have had some amazing experiences and have enjoyed exploring the natural environment. Miss Fox and her team would like to thank you all for your support in making these experiences possible.

### Story of the Week

Our weekly focus books for this half term will be based around Traditional Tales. The children will be learning a whole range of vocabulary and participating in exciting activities built around this theme as well as adding their own ideas to our activities.

3.1.24 - Goldilocks	22.1.24 - Chicken Licken
8.1.24 - The three little pigs	29.1.24 - Jack and the Beanstalk
15.1.24 - Red Riding Hood	5.2.24 - Jasper and the Beanstalk

### Makaton Sign of the Week

This term we will be learning some simple Makaton signs to support language development.

3.1.24 - pig	22.1.24 - dog
8.1.24 - cow	29.1.24 - cat
15.1.24 - sheep	5.2.24 - mouse

Additional Pancake Day themed signs will be incorporated; mix, eat, sugar, lemon, pan, cake.

As Winter is approaching, we will be enhancing our environments with Winter activities and resources and celebrating the Chinese New Year.

### Circle Time

The children are participating in small group Circle time sessions every morning at pre-school. During this time, we are introducing numbers, recognising colours, introducing sounds and talking about the weather. This is a great way for the children to get a sense of the community, develop their confidence and social skills and improve their speaking and listening skills. Children may bring in an item from home to 'show and tell' during our Circle Time sessions e.g. photographs, certificates, a favourite book, found objects, awards, etc.

It is important that children arrive promptly for the Pre-school session so that they do not miss out on their development in these key areas or interrupt the sessions for others due to arriving late. We thank you in anticipation of your support in ensuring that your child arrives at the correct time for their booked sessions.

### **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.

### **New Starters - Staff Keyworker Changes**

There will be some slight changes to keyworkers within Room 1 in January due to our new intake of children moving up from our Nursery provision. We are delighted to welcome all our new starters and following their transition visits during December, know that they will settle quickly into their new environment.

### **Christmas Thanks**

A big thank you is also 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.

### **Parking**

A reminder that no parent /carer cars are allowed on the pre-school and main school site at any time. This is to meet the safety and insurance requirements of our landlord, North East Lincs Council. We appreciate that parking is difficult but request that all cars are parked with consideration of our neighbours on Manor Drive and away from the yellow zig zag lines outside the school gate, which are there to protect you and your children.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation on this matter.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

### **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

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

### **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](#)

### **Meet our Staff**

Please see our website for further information on our staff and their qualifications using the link below.

[Meet our Staff](#)

### Nappies / Toilet training

We work closely with parents to support individual needs with toilet training. We do however ask that, unless your child is actively potty training, they do not wear pullups for pre-school. This is for a number of reasons;

- Your child should be able to pull up and down their trousers/leggings/tights with a small amount of support
- Pull-ups are only designed to hold a small amount of wee / poo which if overloaded, can result in little legs getting sore
- Your child needs to be aware of their bowel and bladder movements to show that they are ready to start being independent in using pull ups
- We are here to support this exciting milestone and if you feel that your child is more than ready, we suggest moving on to wearing pants.

### 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](http://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](http://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.**

### 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.

### End of Term

- Pre-school (Rooms 1 and 2) will close on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** and reopen on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**.
- Nursery closes on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** and reopens on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**.
- Primary OOSC closes on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** and reopens on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> December through to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** and also on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### **February Half-Term Holiday Club**

The pre-school is closed for half-term week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 another challenging year and to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Waltham Pre-school.**

