



# Waltham Pre-School

## Newsletter Spring Term 2 Room 1

February 2024

Welcome to our Spring Term 2 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.

### Themes

Activities and room enhancements will be linked to our themes for this half term; *Growing and Lifecycles*.

### Story of the Week

This half term we will be reading a selection of books linked to our themes. A different book will be shared throughout the week and activities and interests built around the themes within the book.

19.2.24 - Jack and the Beanstalk

11.3.24 - The Hungry Caterpillar

26.2.24 - Jasper's Beanstalk

18.3.24- Superworm

4.3.24 - The Enormous Turnip

25.3.24 - Growing Frogs

### Communication and Language - Welcomm Programme

All our teachers and practitioners have taken part in Wellcomm training to support our children's Language and Communication development. Please see the attached document that offers information about the Wellcomm programme that is currently being used in Pre-School. If you have any further questions about Wellcomm support, please speak to Miss Fox.

The Wellcomm programme will work alongside our Makaton signing.

### Holi ' Festival of Colours' - week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

We shall be celebrating the Hindu Festival of Colour this half term. The children are invited to dress in bright colours throughout the week.

### World Book Day - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

To celebrate World Book Day this year we would like to invite the children to come into pre-school dressed as their favourite character from a story. On the day we shall be enjoying our favourite stories with activities to celebrate the wonderful world of books.

### Fundraising - Red Nose Day 2024 - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

To celebrate Red Nose Day, the children are invited to wear as much red as possible or dress up as superheroes for a suggested donation of £1.00 per child. All monies raised will be donated to the National Comic Relief Charity.

### **Emergency Closure**

Although we will always endeavour 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 remain payable.

### **February Half Term**

Pre-school (Rooms 1 and 2) will close on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** for the half term holiday.

Pre-school will reopen on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February**.

Holiday Club is open for the half term week for Pre-school children and Primary age pupils. Please ensure that you have contacted the office prior to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February if you need your child booking into any holiday club sessions.

Nursery is open as normal during half term week.

### **Easter Holiday Club**

We will be running a holiday club during the Easter holidays;

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Please ensure that you have contacted the office prior to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March if you need your child booking into any holiday club sessions.

### **Family Support Services Contact Information**

Health Visitors - offer support for families with children up to the age of 5 years old.

**Telephone - 01472 323600**

Family First Information Services (FFIS) - offer support for families with children/ young people between 0-19 years. Telephone - **01472 326292**

### **Pre-school Website**

Our website is regularly updated with all Pre-school and Out of School Club information and events. This includes our menu for the term, pre-school policies, dates, etc. It is also an area where we celebrate learning so please take a moment to have a look. Our website can be found at

[www.walthampreschool.org](http://www.walthampreschool.org)

### **Packed Lunches**

If you are providing your child with a packed lunch, please ensure grapes, tomatoes, etc. are cut in half lengthways to reduce the risk of choking. Also, a reminder that we promote healthy eating in our setting, and we would appreciate your support in ensuring that packed lunches contain healthy choices rather than biscuits, cakes and sweets.

### **Drinks**

Please be aware that children have access to water throughout the day from our cooled, filtered water dispenser in every room. Practitioners actively encourage the children to drink at regular intervals. Children are offered milk or water at morning snack and water at lunchtimes. There is no need to send an additional drink bottle to Pre-School with your child unless you wish to do so as part of their packed lunch.

### **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 April, you must apply and return your DERN code to the pre-school prior to the end of March.

### **Existing 30-Hour Funded Children**

Having obtained 15 hours Extended funding you **must** ensure that you revalidate your claim **before** the end of March. Failure to do this will result in you not being eligible for the summer term funding 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 contact the main office.**

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