



Waltham Pre-School

Newsletter Spring Term 2

Room 2

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.

Celebrating our Learning

This half term the children have made good progress in their phonics activities, they can all be very proud of themselves. We are also really pleased with how much fun Jofli bear is having on all the lovely little adventures to your homes. The children are loving sharing these experiences with their friends during circle time and it is really helping them to gain in confidence with their speaking and listening skills. The children have enjoyed learning about Traditional Stories; listening to the stories and exploring activities built around the characters and themes within the stories.

We have all loved welcoming our Secret Reader visitors this half term too. A big thank you to all the relatives who have been able to come in and share a story with the children. If you would like to be one of our Secret Readers next half term, please contact Mrs Chidwick to arrange a date.

Theme - Animal Adventures

Activities and room enhancements this half term will be linked to our theme of Animal Adventures. We will be learning about pets, vets, farm animals, animal habitats and animals from around the world.

Story of the Week

This half term we will be reading a selection of books that link in with our Animal Adventure theme. A different book will be shared throughout the week and activities and interests built around the themes within the book.

19.2.24 - Lulu gets a cat

26.2.24 - Hospital dog

4.3.24 - What the ladybird heard

11.3.24 - Tiger who came to tea

18.3.24- Rumble in the Jungle

25.3.24 - Greedy Zebra

Phonics

We are continuing to use Twinkl Phonics daily in the room. The children are showing positive signs of increased attention and listening skills during the activities. We are currently focusing on rhyme and identifying initial sounds.

Further support to develop your child's phonological awareness at home, might be to play 'I Spy, something beginning with...' using the initial sounds for each object.

Communication and Language – Welcomm Programme

All of 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 Mrs Laister or Mrs Chidwick.

Makaton Signs of the Week

19.2.24 - Big	11.3.24 - Coats on
26.2.24 - Book	18.3.24- Drink
4.3.24 - Clever	25.3.24 - Goodbye

Holi ' Festival of Colours' - week beginning 25th 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 7th 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 15th March

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 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.

February Half Term

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

Pre-school will reopen on **Monday 19th 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 7th 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 2nd April - Friday 12th April

Please ensure that you have contacted the office prior to Friday 22nd 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

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. 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 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.

.....

