



# Waltham Pre-School

**Autumn Term 1 2024**

## **Nursery**

Hello from our Nursery Room, as we look ahead in preparation for the new academic year at Waltham Pre-School. Each half term we will send a newsletter giving an overview of our learning. Our main source of communication will be via Tapestry. Please make sure that you are signed up with your child's Tapestry account. We are happy to help with this in any way we can.

### **Keyperson**

Your child's keyperson will introduce themselves to both you and your child. They will keep you regularly informed about your child's development and achievements through a weekly Tapestry entry. If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact your key person or any practitioner within the Nursery at the beginning or end of the session.

### **Theme**

Our theme this half-term will be 'Colour'. We will be exploring different colours each week with activities based on the colour of the week. To support this theme and our home learning links, we would be grateful if your child could wear an item of clothing or bring in a toy / object linked to the colour of the week.

2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep - Red	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep - Blue	16 <sup>th</sup> Sep - Yellow
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep - Green	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep - White	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Black
14 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Pink		

### **Pupil Information**

Please ensure that your child's information is kept up to date. Any changes to contact details, addresses or medical concerns must be reported to your child's keyperson as soon as possible.

### **Story of the Week**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep - Roald Dahl, Colours	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep - The Train ride
9 <sup>th</sup> Sep - Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct - My Magical Rainbow
16 <sup>th</sup> Sep - Baby Bear, Baby Bear, what do you see?	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Say Hello to the Jungle Animals
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep - Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do you hear?	

## **Parent Questionnaires**

Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to complete our recent questionnaire. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and practitioners and staff have been very touched by the many kind words from our parents. We have analysed the responses to enable us to tweak elements of our provision in response to any suggested areas for improvement in the new academic year.

## **Tapestry - Online Learning Journal**

Please note, in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (2024) which informs our daily practice, our priority is to interact with children and support their individual development. It is Pre-School Policy that staff will spend as little time as possible on Tapestry devices such as I pads that distract from our quality interactions with your children. Being available and 'in the moment' with the children will always be our priority.

One Tapestry entry per week will be sent for your child which will reflect a 'Wow' moment or be linked to their 'Next Steps'. This is to ensure that quality interactions and relationships are formed and are ongoing between children and practitioners.

Should you feel you need more information about your child's development at any point in the year, please contact your child's key person to arrange a time to meet with them. If you have any developmental concerns of a Special Educational Needs matter, please contact the setting SENDCo or your child's Room Leader via the main Pre-school office.

## **Tapestry Amendments - IMPORTANT - To be completed before September**

In September we will continue to use Tapestry to record 'Wow' moments. We encourage parents to communicate via Tapestry. To help us 'get to know' your child, there is an '**All About Me**' section on your Tapestry page. This needs to be completed prior to the new term and be kept up to date as part of our Tapestry and EYFS Policy. If you need any support using the web or app version of Tapestry, please feel free to ask your current key person or any practitioner within the Nursery room who will be happy to help.

## **Hot Lunches**

Please see our website for the Autumn Term Lunch and tea menu.

## **Session Times**

**1pm Collections** - Please ensure that you arrive to collect your child as close to 1pm as possible. Children are having lunch between 12-1 and the adult support and children themselves can be disrupted by 'early arrivals'.

**Morning Sessions** - arrivals should be between 7.30 and 9am to enable us to have staff available to answer the door. Please avoid arrivals between 9am - 12pm, unless you inform us of a pre-arranged appointment, as this takes staff out of ratios in our busy room, to answer the doors.

### **Afternoon Collections**

Tea - time is between 4pm - 4.45pm. We politely request that you try and avoid collecting your child during this time as staff are needed to support the children eating their tea. If you cannot avoid this time for collection then we ask for your patience whilst waiting and be assured that your child will be brought out to you as quickly as it is safe and convenient to do so.

**End of Nursery Day** - Nursery closes at 6pm prompt. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that all staff, parents and children have left the building and the site can be secured at 6pm. A reminder that a fine system is in place and will be applied when children are not collected on time. This fine will be £2.00 for every minute past 6pm. You will be asked to complete a late collection form to enable us to monitor collections. This must be strictly enforced to ensure that we remain in compliance with our insurance.

\*\* It would be helpful if you could pass on the above collection information to family members who may be collecting your child on your behalf.

### **Names**

A reminder to ensure that all personal items are clearly named, including coats, hats, clothing, bags, dummies, bottles, powder pots, etc. Thank you.

### **Security**

Please ensure you close all gates behind you at all times. Children are on site between the hours of 7:30am and 6:00pm, and it is paramount that they are safe. This is monitored by CCTV. Thank you in anticipation of your support in keeping all our children safe.

### **Playground Equipment**

Please monitor your children at all times before they enter Nursery and after they leave to ensure safety at all times.

### **Parking**

A reminder to all parents to park considerately along Manor Drive and to avoid obstructing traffic or blocking resident's driveways. Dropping off and picking up outside the school gates **IS NOT ALLOWED** as this area should remain accessible at all times to allow emergency vehicles to enter. Please also remember that driving onto the school grounds to drop off and pick up children is **not permitted at any time between 7.30 and 6pm**. Please ensure that any family members or friends dropping off and collecting your child, are informed of this.

### **Illness Reminder**

If your child has diarrhoea and / or sickness, our policy states that they must be clear for 48hrs before returning to school, to reduce the risk of contamination. Please inform pre-school as soon as possible if your child is going to be absent.

## Pre-school Website

All the key information for Pre-school can be found on our website, including policy documents, staff qualifications, menus, term dates and celebrations of learning. This can be found at [www.walthampreschool.org](http://www.walthampreschool.org)

## End of Term

The main Pre-School will close for the summer holidays on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024** and reopen on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024**. Nursery will operate as normal during the summer holiday period except for a **closure on the bank holiday Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

The main Preschool will close for the October half term holiday on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024** and reopens on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024**. Nursery will operate as normal during the October half term.

May we take this opportunity to wish all our families a safe and happy summer holiday break. Thank you for all your support over the last academic year.

