



Waltham Pre-School

Autumn Term 1 2024

Room 2

Hello and welcome to Room 2 as we look ahead in preparation for the new academic year at Waltham Pre-School. We are really looking forward to getting to know all our new children and welcome back those children who have been with us during the Summer Term.

A reminder that every half term we will send a newsletter giving an overview of our learning. Our main source of communication will however 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 have the pleasure of introducing themselves to you via Tapestry. This information and 'first day back' information, will be shared on Tuesday 3rd September, which is our staff training day.

Children who are new to Room 2 will have participated in visits to Room 2 over the last few weeks and met some of the Room 2 practitioners already. The keyperson 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 Room 2 at the beginning or end of the session.

Start of the Day

We always encourage the children to come into the classroom independently. As in Room 1, we ask that parents do not bring children into the classroom at the start of the day. We will do everything we can to support your child and ensure that they are settled as soon as possible.

Theme

Our themes this half-term will be 'All About Me' and 'Families'. Throughout this half term we shall help settle the children into our Room 2 routines. We would be grateful if you could send in some family photos with your child, to promote discussion within the group about families and your child's place within the family.

Interest Table

The interest table this term will be colours. Children will be encouraged to bring in an item each week from home:

4 th Sep - Red	30 th Sep - Orange
9 th Sep - Blue	7 th Oct - Purple
16 th Sep - Green	14 th Oct - Brown
23 rd Sep - Yellow	

Please note, only one item per week. Please ensure your child's name is on the item for a safe return.

Story of the Week

Books we shall be focusing on this half term will include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4 th Sep - All are welcome | 30 th Sep - The little red hen |
| 9 th Sep - Colour Monster | 7 th Oct - Whatever next |
| 16 th Sep - This is our house | 14 th Oct - Room on the broom |
| 23 rd Sep - What the jackdaws saw | |

Makaton - Sign of the Week

We will be continuing to learn Makaton signs to help our children develop their communication skills.

We will have a focused 'sign of the week'

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 th Sep - Good morning | 30 th Sep - sit down |
| 9 th Sep - please | 7 th Oct - drink |
| 16 th Sep - thank you | 14 th Oct - eat |
| 23 rd Sep - goodbye | |

Phonics

In Room 2 we focus on teaching the children Phase 1 phonics skills. During Circle Time the children will be participating in short, focused activities to help support their understanding of environmental sounds and their speaking and listening skills.

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

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 Room 1 who will be happy to help.

Parent Questionnaires

Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to complete our recent questionnaires. 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.

Parent Partnership

If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to talk to us at your earliest opportunity. It can be difficult to have lengthy conversations at the beginning of the day, however we are happy to talk at the end of the day. You can also send a message via Tapestry / the main office, requesting some time to talk to a practitioner and we will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time. We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

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.

Session Times

Morning sessions - 9:00 to 12:00

Afternoon sessions - 12:00 to 3:00

Please can we remind you that our sessions start and finish promptly at these times. Children should not arrive outside of the session hours unless a late arrival / early collection has been pre- informed via Tapestry or the main office. This is to enable appropriate staff allocation in line with staff / child ratios and to avoid taking practitioners away from supporting the children's learning unnecessarily.

Late Collection

It is very important that you collect your child at the correct time. Strict staff ratios are in place for the children's safety; late collection puts this in jeopardy. A Late Collection Policy is in place and additional charges will be made for late collections.

Out of School Club

A reminder that we offer an Out of School service; the times and prices are as follows:

7:30 - 9:00 = £7.20 (inc. breakfast)

3:00 - 6:00 = £11.60 (inc. snack)

All children are welcome, from 2 to 11 years.

If you are interested in booking any sessions, please speak to Miss Clason in the main office. Please use the **Room 1** door when arriving to drop off at Breakfast Club. Collection from Out of School Club will also be from the **Room 1** door in September.

Uniform

We have sweatshirts and polo shirts in stock at the moment. These can be bought from the main office at the price of £10.50 each.

Spare Clothing

Spare clothes and a bag are needed for every child. We have lots of fun in Room 2 and sometimes we may need a change of clothing.

Names

Please ensure that all coats, hats, sweatshirts, bags, etc. have your child's name inside. Also, it would be helpful if all lunch boxes have your child's name on the outside, and contain a drink and spoon, where necessary. Thank you.

Holiday Club

As previously advised, our holiday club will be open during the summer holiday for all children aged 2-11 years. Places are limited and if you haven't already, please contact the main office to book your child in **before** the end of the Pre-school term on Friday 19th July.

We shall also be opening our Holiday Club during the October half term holiday, from **21st to 25th October 2024**. Please contact the main office to make a booking **before** the end of the half term on Friday 18th October.

Security

Please ensure that all gates are closed 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 includes the main gates onto the site from Manor Drive - the smaller pedestrian gate is regularly being left open as parents leave the site. This is being monitored by CCTV. Thank you in anticipation of your support in keeping all our children safe.

Playground Equipment and Outdoor Areas

Please monitor your children closely before they enter pre-school and after they have been collected, to ensure safety at all times. A further reminder that the outdoor areas are used by our Out of School Clubs from 3pm. We would appreciate parents / carers leaving the pre-school site promptly after collecting their children to enable the groups to go out into the garden areas.

Hot Lunches

Please see the Pre-School website for our Lunch and Tea menu for the Autumn Term. Our meals are cooked fresh daily. Bookings for hot lunches can be made via the main Preschool office. Hot lunches are £3.65 per day.

Packed Lunch

If you decide to send your child with a packed lunch, please ensure the contents are healthy, with no sweets or fizzy drinks. If you wish to include tomatoes and grapes please ensure these are pre-cut before packing them into lunches. We are a nut free setting and request that any form of nuts are not included in packed lunches to reduce the likelihood of allergic reactions.

If you would like some inspiration for healthy packed lunches, please refer to:

www.nhs.uk/changes4life/recipeschools

Pre-school Website / Facebook

All the key information for Pre-school can be found on our website, including policy documents, staff qualifications, term dates and celebrations of learning. Our website can be found at www.walthampreschool.org

A reminder that we also have a Facebook page which showcases what each of our rooms have been up to throughout the week. Please pop along and give us a 'like'.

End of Term

Pre-School will close for the summer holidays on **Friday 19th July 2024** and reopen on **Wednesday 4th September 2024**.

Pre-school will close for the October half term holiday on **Friday 18th October 2024** and reopen on **Monday 28th October 2024**.

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 and we look forward to seeing you all again in September.

