



Waltham Pre-School

Newsletter Autumn Term 2

Room 1

October 2024

Welcome to our Autumn Term 2 Newsletter - we hope you find the information useful. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the main Pre-School office where we will be happy to help.

The children have all quickly settled into the new academic year and the routines in Room 1. We have had a lovely half term exploring our environments both inside and outside and have really enjoyed the Harvest season; taking trips to the allotments, exploring natural phenomena. Well done to all the families that helped create our fantastic scarecrow family - the children have loved having them in the room.

Date for your Diary - Thursday 7th November - 9.30am

Parents / Grandparents are invited to come to Pre-School and participate in Poppy themed crafts as part of our Remembrance Day activities. More details will follow via Tapestry.

Themes - Story of the Week

This half term we will be exploring the upcoming celebrations - Halloween, Divali, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day and Christmas, as well as linking activities and learning to Nursery Rhyme Week, Children in Need and Anti-bullying week.

Wb. 28.10 - Room on a Broom

18.11 - Stickman

9.12 - Gruffalo's Child

4.11 - Sparks in the Sky

25.11 - Stickman

16.12 - Dear Santa

11.11 - How Kind

2.12 - Gruffalo

Independence Skills

We will be focusing on supporting the children with finding and recognising their own coats, dressing and undressing and being able to self-feed using a spoon and fork during this half term. Your support in developing these skills at home will enable a consolidated approach.

Email Contact

We now have over 300 families using our Nursery, Pre-School, Breakfast Club and Out of School Club provision. Please could we request that if you are emailing the office, remember to include your child's full name and current room or school year group so that we can locate your booking record and deal with your request efficiently.

Hot Lunches

A copy of the full lunch menu for this term, including the light tea options, is available on our website www.walthampreschool.org

Tapestry

A reminder that Tapestry is used to record children's development and progress records. If you have a query or question, please speak to your child's keyworker or contact the main office. If requests are made through Tapestry e.g. for additional sessions, they do not get picked up until a practitioner logs on and therefore a response will be delayed.

Home Learning Challenges

We hope you are enjoying our home learning challenges. We are very appreciative of how many have found the time in busy family lives, to take part in these fun experiences for the children. The children are very proud of their home-school links. Well done and thank you!

Facebook

Our Facebook page **Waltham Pre-School** is active; please drop by and give us a 'like'. The page is used to share information and celebrate learning. Again, if you have a query, please do not ask on our Facebook page as it may get missed.

Clothing

Please ensure:

- children's tops, coats, hats, scarves 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, including socks / tights

Packed Lunches

If you are providing your child with a packed lunch, please ensure grapes, tomatoes, etc. are quartered to reduce the risk of choking. Also, a reminder that we promote healthy eating in our setting and would appreciate your support in ensuring that packed lunches contain healthy choices. A reminder that we are a **nut-free setting**; food items containing nuts **must not** be included in packed lunches.

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 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 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 Miss Clason in the main Pre-School office or contact Mr Beal directly graham.beal@walthampreschool.org

Writes Photographers

The photographer will be in Pre-school during the morning of **Friday 22nd November**. If your child does not attend pre-school on this day, please speak to a member of staff to arrange an appointment between 8.30 and 11.00am.

The photographer will be taking sibling group photos from 8.15am. This must be booked via the main preschool office to enable us to ensure that numbers are manageable.

Fundraising / Dressing Up

- **Halloween Fun** - Week beginning 28/10/24, the children are invited to wear Halloween clothes and costumes all week.
- **Children in Need - Spotacular - Friday 15th November.**
Children are invited to join in our fundraising for Children in Need this year by coming to pre-school wearing anything with spots for a suggested donation of £1.00.
- **Save The Children - Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 12th December**
Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers for the day for a suggested donation of £1.00. All donations will be sent to the Save the Children Charity.
- **Hello Yellow Day**

Thank you for your kind donations for our recent Hello Yellow fundraiser. We were delighted to be able to send £49.50 to the Young Minds Matter charity.

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Lunch will be served on Thursday 12th December. Children who are normally booked in for a hot meal on that day will automatically have a Christmas lunch. If your child normally has a packed lunch on that day and you would like them to have a Christmas lunch, please book through the main office by Friday 6th December.

Outdoor Area

As the colder weather begins to arrive and your child will be able to access the outdoor area at all times, please ensure you provide your child with **named** waterproof clothing and wellies.

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, Tapestry and our Facebook page.

Due to our continued running costs all fees will still remain payable.

October Half-Term Holiday Club

The Pre-school (Rooms 1 and 2) is closed for half-term week beginning 21st October. Please ensure that you have contacted the office prior to Friday 18th October if you need your child booking into any holiday club sessions for 2-11 year olds. The Nursery room will be open as normal during the half term break.

Christmas Holiday Club (2-11 year olds)

We will be running our Holiday Club on the following dates:

Friday 20th December

Thursday 2nd January

Friday 3rd January

Please ensure that you have contacted the office prior to Thursday 19th December if you need your child booking into any Holiday Club sessions.

End of Autumn Term

Pre-school (Rooms 1 and 2) will close on **Thursday 19th December** and reopen on **Monday 6th January 2025**.

The Nursery will close on **Monday 23rd December** and reopen **Thursday 2nd January 2025**.

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