



# Waltham Pre-School

## Newsletter Autumn Term 2 Nursery

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.

### Themes

Over the next half term our theme will be Autumn. Crafts, activities, circle time, stories and songs will be built around the Autumn theme. As Halloween, Bonfire night and Christmas are approaching, we will also be enhancing our environments with relevant activities and resources. The children will be learning about Autumnal weather, animals, colours, natural textures from the outdoor environment and seasonal foods.

### Story of the Week

Each week a book will be shared, and activities built around the themes within the book. We hope that this approach will help stimulate and build upon a love of reading. If you have a copy of the books at home, pre-reading of each book will help support and enhance your child's enjoyment of the book. Books for the half term will be:

Wb. 28.10 - That's not my witch

4.11 - The leaf thief

11.11 - Stickman

18.11 - Owl Babies

25.11 - Stuck in the mud

2.12 - Room on the broom

9.12 - That's not my reindeer

16.12 - The Christmas Elf

### Waltham Pre-School Spotify Playlist

Following the children's interests in singing and dancing, we have made a Spotify playlist available to listen to at home. We will be updating this to match current themes, etc. Ask Alexa to 'play Waltham Pre-School Playlist'.

### 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.

### Clothing / Belongings

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
- clothing is suitable for the weather e.g. warm coat for outdoor play

### **Collection Times**

Polite request - please try and avoid collecting your child between 4pm - 4.45pm. This is tea time in the Nursery and staff are very busy with the babies and cannot get to the door very easily to do an efficient handover. It can also be quite upsetting for the younger babies when the door is opening / closing during this time.

Please ensure that children attending morning only sessions are collected by 1pm promptly. Our staff change over at this time and therefore adult child ratios change. There is not additional space for a child to remain beyond 1pm without a pre-booked session having been made. All late collections will require a late form to be completed and additional fees will be charged as per our Late Collection Policy.

Thank you in anticipation of your support with these requests.

### **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.

### **Pre-school Website**

Our website is regularly updated with all Pre-school information and events. Our website can be found at [www.walthampreschool.org](http://www.walthampreschool.org)

### **Hot Lunches**

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

### **Personal Information**

Please inform a member of staff of any changes of admin information, dietary requirements and daily routines for your child. For any known allergies, an allergy form must be completed and returned as soon as possible. Forms are available on our website or from keyworkers.

### **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.

### **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 see Miss Clason in the main Pre-School office or contact Mr Beal directly [graham.beal@walthampreschool.org](mailto:graham.beal@walthampreschool.org)**

### **Writes Photographers**

The photographer will be in Pre-school during the morning of **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> December. Children who are normally booked in for a hot meal on that day will automatically have a Christmas lunch.

### 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.

### All About Me

On the front page of your child's Tapestry online Learning Journal there is a section called All About Me. We would really appreciate you spending a little time to complete the information about your child, even if they have been attending Waltham Pre-School for a while. This learning journal is part of the smooth transition into The Leas Academy and both providers find the information a useful tool to gain a complete picture of your child enabling the best outcomes. Please access from the Tapestry website and not the app.

### End of Autumn Term

The Nursery will close on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December** and reopen **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025**

[Nursery is open as normal during the October Half Term break]

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

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