



Hollytree Pre-school Newsletter

Summer Term 1 2025

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back! We hope you've all enjoyed the holidays and are ready for another busy half term. As always, we have lots planned for the children and hopefully, we will continue to enjoy some warmer weather as we start the summer term!

Our theme for this half term will be **Water**, we will be looking at:

Pirates and Mermaids: We will be making our own Pirate Ship and Treasure Maps as well as going on a Treasure Hunt.

Under the Sea: We will be looking at the different creatures that live under the sea and how we can protect our oceans.

Pond Life: We will be finding out about the kinds of creatures that can be found in ponds. We will also learn about simple life cycles by looking at frog spawn, tadpoles and frogs.

Floating and sinking: We will be investigating things that float and sink, making predictions and making our own boats.

Capacity: We will be investigating different containers and talking about full and empty.

We will continue to have our '**Book of the Week**', this half term our books will include Commotion in the Ocean, Shark in the Park and Ten Little Pirates, as well as some non-fiction books linked to our topic.

Reminders:

- As the weather improves the children do tend to use the outdoor area more. Please ensure all coats, jumpers and cardigans are named! As it gets warmer it would also be a good idea to provide a named sun hat and also to apply sun cream before your child comes to pre-school. We are not allowed to apply sun cream to your child but you may send in a roll-on sun cream or similar that they can apply themselves. This should be named and placed in their book bag.
- **Parking:** We understand the car park does get very busy but can we please ask you to park considerately when dropping off or collecting your child. It can be very difficult to see parents when cars are parked at the top of the slope where the children come out and in front of the bins. We also ask that parents drive carefully in and out of the car park as there are often lots of children around, not just from preschool but from the nearby schools too, and keep the disabled parking bays clear.
- Please do think about the **safety of your children** at drop off and collection times. They should not play on the steps in the front patio area or climb on the walls. We would also advise not letting them run around to the back of the preschool area, we may still be getting resources out of the containers and it is not safe for them to be running around out of your sight.
- Once again, can we please ask you **not to block the door** at drop off and collection times. All of the children are now able to carry in their own belongings. If you need to speak to a member of staff, wait at the top of the slope until all the children are safely in or seen out to their parents/carers, and then come down to the door.
- **Smoking/vaping:** Can we please ask you not to smoke or vape at drop off and collection times, particularly in the area where children and their families are waiting. If you must smoke or vape at this time move away from the entrance to preschool.
- **Appropriate language:** Can we also please ask you to think about the language you are using when dropping off and collecting your children. It is not considerate to other families, staff or children to swear and use foul language.
- **Lunch boxes:** Please make sure you supply a healthy lunch for your child that they can manage to

eat. It would be very helpful to us if you could encourage your child to practice opening packets, yoghurts etc, we try to encourage them to be as independent as possible at lunchtime. As the weather gets warmer, we would also advise you to place an ice pack in their lunch bag to keep the food cool.

- Snack: Can we also remind you that if your child attends the morning session, they should bring a healthy snack for snack time which is in a named pot or bag that they can put in the snack tray when they arrive in the morning. Fruits to be peeled like oranges or bananas can have your child's name written on them please. Snacks should be brought in in your child's book bag so they can find them easily to put in the snack tray.
- Nuts and Grapes: We have a **No Nut Policy** at preschool which we must ask all parents to stick to. This includes all kinds of loose nuts and Peanut butter. We also ask if your child brings grapes for lunch or snack, they must be cut at least in half lengthways but preferably into quarters. This also applies to cherry tomatoes.
- Book bags: All children should bring their book bags to preschool every day. Any letters or work the children have done will be sent home in their book bags and anything they need to bring to preschool should be brought in their book bags. Replacement book bags can be purchased for £7.
- Nappies: If your child is still in nappies please send nappies, wipes and nappy sacks into preschool in a named bag which can be kept at preschool. We will let you know when they are running low.
- Toys: **Please do not send toys into preschool!** We promise the children have plenty to play with and toys from home can get lost or broken and cause squabbles between the children.
- Contacting staff: staff are always happy to respond to emails about the children but we do ask you to please be considerate and email during normal working hours. Staff will respond to emails between 8am and 5pm during the week. All staff have a preschool email address which is their first name followed by @hollytreepreschool.org.uk. There is also the general email address info@hollytreepreschool.org.uk. Please do not contact staff using social media platforms such as Facebook or put staff in a difficult position by sending friend requests. Our policy states that staff should not be 'friends' with current parents on any social media platforms. You can also ring or message us using the preschool mobile number – 07594 591935 or you can ring the landline number 023 80741410 between 8am and 3pm.
- Policies: a reminder that all of our policies and procedures are available on our website www.hollytreepreschool.org.uk

Dates for your diaries:

- Wednesday 21st May – **Hallett's Photography** will be in preschool at 9am to take individual and group photos. If your child does not normally attend on a Wednesday and you would like them to have their photo taken, please let us know.
- Saturday 17th May – **North Baddesley Village Day**. We will once again be running a stall at the Village Day to raise funds for preschool. This year we will have a selection of children's crafts including bead bracelets, crown making and mug and plate decorating. We will also have glitter tattoos. Thank you to our committee who will be organising and running the stall on the day, please come and visit us!
- Summer trip – we are in the process of arranging this – more details to follow!

Hours for September:

If your child is staying with us next year it would be helpful to know which sessions you would like for them. We will allocate funded hours first – this may be 15 hours a week or 30 hours depending on whether you are eligible for working families funding. You can check your eligibility online. We are looking very busy for the next academic year so would suggest you request the full number of hours you want for each week from September, we cannot promise that we will be able to increase or change hours later in the year. Due to increased numbers, we will only be taking on new children in September. If you have a child who will be two before August 31st 2025 and you are eligible for 2-year-old funding, we may be able to offer them a space from September. If they turn two after September 1st 2025, they will be able to start

preschool the following September, 2026. Children who are turning 3 before 31st August 2025 will be able to start preschool in September 2025 as all 3- and 4-year-olds are entitled to 15 funded hours per week, or 30 hours under the working families funding scheme.

School Readiness

In the second half of this term, we will be visiting North Baddesley Infants with our older children who will be starting there in September, on a Friday afternoon. This is a lovely way to get the children used to their new school and really helps with their transition. More information about these visits will be emailed to parents.

At preschool we will be working hard with all of our older children to prepare them for their transition to 'big school'. School readiness is not just about writing their name or being able to count, more importantly the children need to have developed their independence skills. We ask that as parents you support us with this by ensuring that your child can use the toilet independently and clean themselves afterwards, wash and dry their hands, dress themselves and put on their own coats and shoes, eat their packed lunch independently and use a knife and fork.

Fees

From September 2025 we will be increasing our hourly fees. Two-year-olds will be charged at £8 an hour and Three- and Four-year-olds will be £7 an hour for any additional hours on top of their funded sessions.

Session costs will therefore be:

	3-hour session (9am – 12pm or 12pm – 3pm)	6-hour session (9am – 3pm)
Two-year-olds	£24	£48
Three- and Four-year-olds	£21	£42

Thanks as always for your support,
The Hollytree Team.