



Autumn Term 2 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

Themes

Our theme for the beginning of this half term will be '**Pirates and Princesses**'. Over the first few weeks we will be:

- Making Treasure Maps and going on Treasure hunts.
- Practising our number skills by sorting jewels and coins into treasure chests.
- Making Pirate ships, telescopes, pirate hats and castles.
- Finding different ways to 'Walk the Plank'!
- Planning and having a 'Pirate and Princess Party' in our role play area.
- Enjoying Pirate and Princess stories and telling our own stories using toys and puppets.

Our 'Books of the Week' for the first four weeks will be:

- 'Pirates Love Underpants'
- 'Ten Little Pirates'
- 'Pirate Pete'
- 'Ten Little Princesses' 'Little Princess'

We will also be

- Talking about fireworks, the noises they make and the colours we can see.
- Making firework pictures.
- Exploring colours by experimenting with colour mixing.

As we get closer to Christmas, we will be planning lots of fun Christmas activities as well as preparing for our Christmas Performance. This year we have again made the decision to record the performance rather than inviting parents in. We find the children enjoy the experience a lot more without an audience. We will have the performance on Monday 4th December. We will record the performance and it will be available to buy on DVD. More details nearer the time.

Children in Need

On Friday 17th November we will be raising money for Children in Need. If your child would like to take part, they can wear spots or stripes on this day. We will be asking for a minimum donation of £1, all money raised will go to Children in Need.

Progress Reports and Two-Year Checks

Staff will be contacting parents to arrange one-to-one meetings to discuss your child's progress and development. They will share either their two-year check or their Record of Development Summary (RDS) as well as their 'Special Book'. Meetings will take place over the next few weeks.

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 1st November

Halletts Photography will be at preschool to take individual photos. If your child does not usually attend on a Wednesday you are welcome to bring them along at

9am. Please drop them off outside as you normally would and we will bring them out to you once they have had their photo taken.

Friday 17 th November	Children in Need – wear spots or stripes
Friday 24 th November and Monday 27 th November	Preschool closed for Inset days
Monday 4 th December	Nativity performance – to be recorded
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Party 10.30-12.30 – more details to follow
	End of term
Thursday 4 th January	Return to preschool

Home/school activities

Some of you may have already had a visit from our Hollytree Bear! The Hollytree Bear chooses someone to come home with who has been kind, careful and considerate at preschool. Hollytree Bear will come home for the night and will bring a special letter explaining why your child has been chosen.

We also run a Toy Library at preschool where the children take turns to bring home a game or puzzle to do with you at home. These activities will be linked to your child's next steps focusing on skills we are developing with them at preschool.

Reminders:

- As the weather gets colder, please ensure your child has suitable warm clothing and footwear in pre-school as we still use the outdoor area as much as we can. Please also make sure all coats, hats, gloves etc are clearly named!
- If you have any of our spare clothes at home, please could we have them back! We would encourage you to put spare clothes in your child's book bag in case of accidents.
- Please ensure all children who attend during the morning bring a suitable snack to have at snack time. This should be a fruit or vegetable, yoghurt, cheese, crackers or breadsticks – please no crisps, chocolate or biscuits. Snacks should be clearly named and in their book bags so they can be easily found and placed in the snack tray.
- Please can all children bring a named drink bottle into preschool every day. They may bring water or squash in their bottle.
- If your child is still in nappies, you must send nappies, wipes and nappy bags into preschool. We don't charge any additional fees for consumables so do ask parents to provide these things. They can be sent in in a named bag which can be kept at preschool, we will let you know when we run out.
- Please remember if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea they should not come back to pre-school until **48 hours** after the symptoms have stopped.
- At this time of year, we do have a lot of illness at preschool which affects the children and the staff! Can we please ask you to be considerate, if your child is unwell, please keep them at home. Do not give them Calpol or equivalent and then send them to preschool, this masks the symptoms but does not stop them spreading the illness.
- You **must** inform preschool if your child is going to be absent for any reason. Please call us 023 80741410/07594 591935 or email info@hollytreepreschool.org.uk as soon as you can.
- We would like to thank those parents and carers who arrive at the correct drop off and pick up times. Again, can we remind you that children must be collected on time at either 12 o'clock or 3 o'clock. If you are going to be unavoidably late you must let us know in advance. If they are collected late several times without us being

- informed, we may charge a late collection fee.
- Contact details – please ensure we have up to date email addresses and phone numbers for you, we tend to send correspondence by email.
 - If your child is starting school next September you can apply online from 1st November. Closing date for applications is **15th January 2024**

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a member of staff.

Many Thanks,
The Hollytree Team