



## Newsletter Spring 2 2025

This half term our activities will be focused around the topic of **Animals** and the following gives you an overview of what we will be covering.

- **Pets.** We will begin by looking at pets and setting up our own Pet Shop at Pre-school. We will be thinking about how we care for pets and similarities and differences between them.
- **Wild animals/animals we see at the zoo.** We will be finding out about wild animals and exploring the different environments they live in. The children will have the opportunity to create homes for different animals using a range of materials.
- **Insects.** We will study insects and go on 'bug' hunts to see how many we can find!
- **Life cycle of a butterfly.** This will be based around the story of 'The hungry Caterpillar'.
- **Farm animals.** We will look at animals that are born in Spring and match baby animals to their parent.
- **Animals that hatch from eggs.** We will find out which animals hatch from eggs and compare the sizes of different eggs.

We will continue having a book of the week, encouraging the children to join in with repeated phrases and retelling the story. The stories we will share are Dear Zoo, Peppa Pig at the Zoo, Rumble in the Jungle, On the Farm, The Hungry Caterpillar and The Odd Egg.

### Record Development Summaries

Staff will be writing RDS's this half term to share with parents. They will meet with parents of our younger children and RDS's will be sent home for our older children. In the Summer term this will be the opposite way round and staff will meet with the parents of children who are going to school.

### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. We will be having a 'Bedtime Stories Day' and the children can come to Preschool wearing pyjamas and bring a favourite story to share.

### Red Nose Day – Friday 21st March

To raise money for comic relief the children can come to Pre-school dressed in something red and be ready to bake! We will be baking a variety of cakes and biscuits with the children throughout the day. We will then have a small bake sale at 11.45am and 2.45pm when parents will be able to purchase some delicious treats! This is the 40<sup>th</sup> year of Comic relief, please support this worthy cause.

## **Family Bag**

We are introducing a 'family bag' to the children again this half term and they will each have a turn to take it home. We ask that you help them to select four items that are special to them and their family to go in the bag. It could be a special toy, a photo or something linked to interests outside of Pre-school. The children will then bring the bag back to Pre-school and show the special items to the group. This is to develop speaking and listening skills and will also develop the children's confidence talking to others.

## **Hollytree Superstar Bears**

We will be reintroducing our Superstar Bears to the children as a way of reinforcing our expectations of behaviour. Superstar bears like us to listen carefully, be kind to our friends, look after the toys and take turns talking using a quiet voice! We will have a 'Hollytree Superstar' each day who will be chosen to take a bear home and look after it for the night.

## **Stay and Play 9.00 – 9.30 week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> March**

This is a lovely opportunity for you to stay and play with your child one morning. They love to show you the things they enjoy playing with at Preschool and their key person will be available to talk to.

## **Reminders**

- **For the children's safety they are not allowed on the steps in the outside area.** Please support this by not allowing your child in the fenced area before or after Preschool. Can we also remind parents to wait at the top of the path when the children come in and out of Preschool. This allows them to walk in safely and to see the adult picking them up.
- **Toys – We ask that the children do not bring toys to Pre-school.** We still have a number of toys being brought in and they can cause disagreements when other children want to play with them. They can also easily get lost or broken. If your child has a special toy they would like to show they will have the opportunity when they take the Family bag home.
- If your child has grapes for snack or lunch please ensure they are cut up.
- If you are eligible for 30 hours funding and your code is due to be renewed please ensure you do this by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## **Easter celebration morning and Easter Bonnet Competition**

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April we will have an Easter Celebration in the morning. The children can bring an Easter Bonnet they have made for our competition and they will make crafts, go on an egg hunt and have hot cross buns for snack.

**Preschool will finish at 12.00 pm on this day for staff training.**

The last day of term is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April (12pm finish) and we return for the Summer term on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Thank you for your continued support  
Hollytree Staff