



Spring Term 2 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents/carers,

We hope you have all enjoyed the break and are ready for another busy half term at pre-school. Our theme for this half term will be “Exploring Where We Live”. Over the next few weeks, we will be:

- Visiting the library, local shops, park and post office to explore the local area.
- Using our experiences to set up our own role play shops, doctors’ surgery and post office. Weighing parcels, writing letters and using money to pay for items.
- Sharing photos of our own houses and talking about where we live. If you would like to send a photo of your house into preschool, please make sure it is named and put it in your child’s book bag.
- Making our own houses and buildings to construct our own “Village”.
- Developing children’s independence and self-help skills.

Our books of the week for this half term will be:

- Rosie’s Walk
- The Shopping Basket
- Shark in the Park
- The Three Little Pigs
- Peppa Loves Doctors and Nurses

Dates for your diary

- Week beginning 4th March – Teddy Bear Tales Week
- Thursday 7th March – World Book Day. Children can dress up as their favourite book character and bring their favourite book to preschool.
- Friday 8th March – Children can bring their teddy to preschool
- Week beginning 25th March – Stay and Play with Easter/Spring crafts
- Friday 29th March – End of term
- Monday 15th April – Return to preschool
- Tuesday 23rd April – Halletts Photography will be in preschool to take individual and group photos
- Thursday 2nd May – Preschool will be closed due to the hall being used for polling

Reminders

- Please ensure your child has outdoor clothing suitable for the weather in pre-school. We plan to do lots of outings in the local area this half term.
- Please continue to provide a healthy snack, preferably a piece of fruit for your child’s morning snack. This should be in a named pot or bag; some fruits can have their name written on the skin. These should be brought in your child’s book bag so they can easily put it in the snack tray.
- Lunch boxes – Another reminder to please send in a manageable amount for your child to eat at lunchtime. They should only have ONE chocolate biscuit type bar/cake or equivalent. Please do not send in chocolate bars or sweets. We will be putting reminders in your child’s lunch bag if necessary.
- Please also remember we are a NO NUT setting; this includes all kinds of nuts as

well as products such as peanut butter or cereal bars that contain nuts.

- Can we remind you that all fees, including those for extended hours, must be paid in advance. A date is given on your invoice and we would appreciate payment by this date in order to secure your child's place.
- Spare clothing – can we please ask that if you borrow any of our spare items of clothes you give them back! We had a large collection of trousers, socks and pants for both girls and boys but now sadly we have hardly any left. It is a good idea to put a change of pants/trousers/socks in your child's book bag in case of accidents.
- Please could we also remind you that if your child is absent from pre-school for any reason can you let us know by calling, texting or emailing on the morning of the first day of absence.
- **If your child has been sick and/or had diarrhoea they **MUST NOT** return to pre-school until 48 hours after the last bout. Please be considerate to other children and staff by making sure you do not send your child back any earlier.**

Teddy Bear Tales Week

This year, as part of the celebration for World Book Day, we will be having a Teddy Bear Tales Theme during the week beginning 4th March. We will be planning lots of activities linked to stories about bears for the children to take part in. On Thursday 7th March, World Book Day, children may dress up as their favourite book character if they would like to. They can also bring their favourite book in to share at preschool (Please make sure it is named!). On Friday 8th March children can bring a teddy or soft toy into preschool and we will have a 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' during morning snack time.

30 hour and 2-year-Old Funding for working parents

If you are claiming 30 hours funding, can we please remind you that you must apply or reconfirm your eligibility before 31st March.

If your child is still 2 and you are a working parent you may be eligible for the governments new 15 hours funding for 2-year-olds. You can check if you are eligible online and **MUST** apply for the code before 31st March.

Coming in to preschool

Now that all of the children are settled at preschool, we would like to encourage all of our parents and carers to allow their children to walk into preschool independently. Our entrance area is very small and we often have a lot of children arriving at the same time. It can get very crowded, especially if parents come into the entrance area too. This can be overwhelming for the children who have come in on their own and make it difficult for them to put their things away. Please can all parents and carers say goodbye to their children at the gate, there are always staff members available to help them with their coats, lunch bags etc. If you need to speak to a member of staff please wait until all of the children have gone into preschool and speak to the staff member who is on the gate.

Stay and Play

Throughout the week beginning 25th March we will be holding Stay and Play at the beginning of the morning session – 9.00-9.30 each day. During the sessions we will have some Easter/ Spring crafts which you can do with your child or you may just like to join in with some of the activities they enjoy at preschool.

During this last week of term, we will also enjoy some Easter activities including Egg Hunts, baking and crafts for the children to bring home.

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

Many thanks
The Hollytree Team