



Newsletter

Welcome to our new families



WELCOME! This week is the last week of Term 3 and we are happy to confirm that all our new children have settled in brilliantly! They have spent a lot of time exploring the setting, getting to know everyone and learning about our pre-school rules and routines.

Term 2

Our Term 2 was all about celebrations! We started with learning about Bonfire Night and Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. We are very thankful to Deepthi who was, this year again, sharing with the children her knowledge and personal experience about this festival.

During the Anti-Bullying Week (11th – 15th November), we read the story about the Three Little Pigs and explored the ways of how to be kind towards each other. We also commemorated Remembrance Day. We took part in Road Safety Week (18th – 22nd November) and learned first-hand about how to keep us safe on the road during our daily walks to the church.

However, most of the time we spent preparing for Christmas celebrations and our traditional Nativity play. All the children were very involved in learning the Nativity story and our Christmas songs. We hope that everyone agrees all the children were amazing on the day!



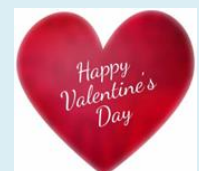
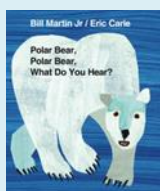
Term 3:

We are already at the end of Term 3! Our core themes this term were Winter, Woodland Animals in Winter and Polar Animals. Our main stories to explore were 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear?', 'Gruffalo', 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.

We held two international days – Scottish Day and Australia Day.

We also spent a week learning about Chinese New Year. This year we were lucky again to have had Sonia with us for a day. Sonia used to work at our preschool, and she knows a lot about Chinese culture. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about it from her.

This week is our Acts of Kindness and Valentines week. We plan to talk a lot about how to express kindness and love to everyone around us. The children are also invited to take part in our fundraising event and dress up in their favourite costume for a small donation.



What's Next - Term 4:

Main themes to explore will be 'On the Farm', 'Spring' and 'Easter' along with celebrating St David's Day, Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day), St Patrick's Day, World Book Day & Mothers Day, so another busy term ahead.



Working with parents:

Our first parent and key person evenings held in Term 2 were a great success! Thank you to all who found time to meet with us and discuss your children's progress and learning. We will plan our second parent and key-person meetings for beginning of May. Meanwhile, if there is anything you would like to talk to us about, please get in touch during drop-off/collection times, by phone or send us an email. We are always happy to talk to you.

Our weekly Woodland Walks require higher adult: child ratios so we are looking for parents to come along and help us to supervise children. If you can help, please let us know. During Term 3, we haven't had any walks due to shortage of staff and parent-helpers. So, next term, we would love to do it better and, with your help, go out walking again.



Next term, we would like to re-introduce our parents-helpers rotas. Helping at the preschool enables parents/carers to see what the day-to-day life of the Pre-school is like and to join in helping the children to get the best out of their activities. Parent helpers play a vital role in supporting the staff. A parent helper may be any adult representative (16 years or above) from the family (e.g. mums, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles etc.). Once your child has been with us for their first six weeks, you may add your name to the parent rota. We feel it is very important to offer a high ratio of adults to children. Unfortunately, siblings or other children are not able to attend sessions whilst the parent/carer is helping.

Story book bags & Bertie Bear



We hope you are enjoying sharing the stories with your child that come home from our preschool! We received lots of positive feedback so far. Thank you for finding time to fill in the reading diary that comes home with the story books. Just a gentle reminder, when it is your turn to take a book bag home, please make sure that you bring it back to your child's next session so that we can send it home with another child. We would like everyone to have the opportunity to take preschool books home and enjoy story times with their parents.

Just to confirm that Bertie Bear's diary is also very popular, especially the photos! The children show great interest at the photos of Bertie Bear visiting children's homes and we have lots of lively discussions during carpet times about Bertie's adventures and children's family life. Again, just a gentle reminder that Bertie needs to come back to preschool the following week so that every child can take Bertie home by the end of the school year.

Family corner:

Are you curious about how your child learns and develops? Family learning sessions can help you support your child as they learn and grow. Visit Family Corner today and book your free learning session here

<https://bit.ly/4aiFHFq>



Healthy Smiles:



To read the newest edition of the Oral Health Newsletter, please follow the link to [Oral Health](#)

Also, if you have recently registered your child with a dentist and you haven't provided us with this information yet, please let us know so that we can update your child's records.

Staffing:

We are currently looking for an additional member of staff so if you know anyone qualified in early years and interested in this position, please let us know. Our adverts for this position can be found on Facebook and Indeed [Qualified Early Years Practitioner, Part-Time - Didcot OX11 9AG - Indeed.com](#)

Meanwhile, to make sure that the provision runs smoothly and without disruptions, we have had some agency staff on board so there will be some new faces in the playroom for the next few weeks. Last week we had Barbara working with us and this week we will have Lisa. Both ladies are well accepted by the children and settling in well.

Management Committee:

Our next management committee meeting will be held on the 6th of March at 8 pm via Microsoft Teams. All parents are welcome. Please let us know if you would like to attend the meeting so that we can send you an invite.



2 year old Working Families Funding Entitlement Changes in September 2025

If your child is 2 in September 2025, and you are eligible, there will be some changes to the 2-year-old Working Families Funding Entitlement as follows:

Since April 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds have been able to access up to 15 hours of free early education (over 38 weeks a year). Since September 2024, this has been extended to eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months and above. ***From September 2025 the final stage of the rollout will occur, with eligible working parents able to access up to 30 free hours per week (over 38 weeks a year) for children aged from 9 months old until they start school.***

Sickness & Daily Absence Recording:



If your child is unwell or has a temperature, please do keep them at home to rest so that we can try to keep any illnesses from spreading throughout our preschool to a minimum. Please see the attached link from the NHS if you would like some more information [Is my child too ill for school?](#)
[- NHS](#)

Please also note that we need to adhere to our strict safeguarding policies regarding absences of children from pre-school and this means that we need to have a record of why your child is not attending pre-school. Therefore, can families please inform us by email the reason why your child is absent daily.

Reminders

Invoices

Please check the payment due dates for our Term 4 invoice and pay as soon as possible if you haven't already.

Children's Toys

We provide a wide variety of toys at the pre-school so, to prevent tears, can we please ask you to refrain from letting your children bring their own toys in. We cannot guarantee that they will not get lost or broken. The exceptions are comforting toys for the new starters or the youngest children in the group.

Children's Clothes

Please send your children in with weather appropriate clothes, plus plenty of spare clothes just in case there are any mishaps or your child gets wet or dirty from the outside play area. Can we, please, also ask parents to make sure that they have their child's name clearly labelled on all items of clothing and shoes too! You would be surprised at how many of the same shoes we have!

Preschool Hoodies, Jumpers & T-Shirts



We have had a recent delivery of Pre-School hoodies and t-shirts. If you would like to purchase them, please feel free to contact a member of staff. They cost £18 for a hoodie and £11 for a t-shirt.



Cold Weather and Fuel bills:

[Better Housing Better Health](#) can help with covering the costs of additional heating for those with children. The service can issue emergency fuel vouchers of at least £50 if people find it costly to heat their homes during these colder temperatures.

They can also provide other sources of advice and support for longer-term interventions to improve the warmth of the home. More general advice can be found here: <https://www.bhbh.org.uk/make-a-referral/>

4 Year Check and Development Review:

The 0-19 Children and Young People's Service have now introduced a 4-year health and development review to all children in Oxfordshire. This review will take place close to a child's fourth birthday and uses the Ages and Stages Development Tool to do a holistic assessment of a child's health and development. This review will be a face-to-face appointment, usually in a clinic setting with a member of the 0-19 team. More information is available at <https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/hv/3-4/school-readiness/>

Contact Details for 0-19 Children and Young People Service:

Single Point of Access:

- Email: cyp0-19@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk
- Phone: 01865 903800
- Website: <https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/hv/about/>

For advice or support parents can TEXT Chat Health on the following numbers:

- ParentLine 0-4 years. Text: 07312 263081
- ParentLine 5-11 years. Text: 07312 263227
- ChatHealth 11-19 years. Text: 07312 263084

Dates for your Diary:

<p>February <u>Friday 14th</u> End of Term 3</p> <p><u>Monday 24th</u> Start of Term 4</p>	<p>May <u>Saturday 10th</u> Bikeathon & Fun Day</p> <p><u>Thursday 15th</u> Graduation & Leavers Photos</p> <p><u>Friday 23rd</u> End of Term 5</p>
<p>March <u>During March</u> Easter Raffle</p>	<p>June <u>Monday 2nd</u> Start of Term 6</p> <p><u>Tuesday 10th</u> Sports Day 9.30am</p>
<p>April <u>Friday 4th</u> End of Term 4</p> <p><u>Wednesday 23rd</u> Start of Term 5</p>	<p>July <u>Saturday 5th</u> Summer Production & Leavers Ceremony</p> <p><u>Friday 18th</u> End of Term 6</p>



Message from the Fundraising Team

We are a charity run pre-school and all proceeds from our fundraising events go straight back into your child's pre-school. The only other money that the pre-school receives is from your session fees, which is not enough to keep the pre-school refreshed and up to date. If you would like to help, or would like to share your ideas, please contact a member of the pre-school team and we can add you to the Fundraising WhatsApp Group. [New members are very welcome, the more help and ideas we have the more money we can raise!](#)

Money Raised



Halloween

With the Guess the Pumpkin Weight competition and our Halloween cake sale we made £96.50. Thank you to all who donated, helped on the stall and bought some yummy cakes.

Nativity, Christmas Raffle & Teddy Tombola

Our Nativity and Raffle was also a huge success! Everyone had lots of fun and the children were all amazing little performers. With our ticket sales, the raffle and refreshments on sale plus our Teddy Tombola held at St Mary's Church in Wallingford we made a whopping £928 from our Christmas fundraisers! Thank you all so much! This is a huge amount for our little preschool.

Upcoming Events

Valentines Dress Up Week w/c 10th February



This week we are holding our Valentines Dress Up Week. We will be talking to the children about friendship & kindness so if you would like your child to take part, please bring them in in the dress up outfits they would like to wear. We would like to make a suggested donation of £1 for our fundraiser but any further pennies you could spare would be fabulous.

Easter Raffle & Easter Bonnet Parade – w/c 31st March

This Easter we will be holding an Easter Raffle, and we already have some great prizes up for grabs. We will let you all know when the tickets are going on sale. This will be drawn on Monday 31st March. We will also be holding an Easter Bonnet Parade, more information to come....



Please Save the Dates:

- Bikeathon & Fun Day – Saturday 10th May at 10am
- Graduation & Leavers Photos - Thursday 15th May at 10am
- Sports Day – Tuesday 10th June at 9.30am
- End of Year Production & Leavers Ceremony – Saturday 5th July at 10am