



Newsletter

Term 1

We are more than halfway through Term 1, and we are happy to confirm that all the children have settled in brilliantly! Our new children have spent a lot of time exploring the setting, getting to know everyone and learning about pre-school rules and routines.

This September, we explored the 'All About Me' theme by looking at our bodies, exploring our likes and dislikes, our feelings and talking about our families. We learnt lots of body action songs. 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes', 'Little Turtle' and 'Wheels on the Bus' were some of our favourites. We tested our physical skills on an obstacle course outside. Our favourite story was the Gingerbread Man, and we enjoyed making our own gingerbread man cookies. The children played games that encourage sharing and working as a team. We also started going on nature walks around the big school field and doing our regular weekly cooking sessions.



The main theme in October is Autumn. We started learning about harvest and took part in British Food Fortnight. The children have been enjoying the 'Farm Shop' role-play outside, as well as the games related to farm animals. They have been exploring our harvest display and learning about different foods, as well as engaging in a wide variety of autumn craft activities. They also baked some delicious hedgehog breads and cooked a pumpkin soup, and all the children said it was yummy!

This month, we are also taking part in the World Space Week. The children have been learning about space and different planets in our solar system through theme-related stories, crafts and games. Our last week of this term will be about Diwali. We will be learning about India and their customs as part of our International Days.



To find out more and keep yourselves informed about our learning, please go to our closed Facebook group to read our weekly updates.

What's next, Term 2?

Next term we will start with Bonfire Night and Fireworks as our main themes. We will also commemorate Remembrance Day. In November, we will take part in Anti-Bullying Week and explore the ways of how to be a good friend. We will also hold a Road Safety Week and learn about how to keep ourselves safe on the road. In December, we will learn about the winter season and celebrate Christmas.

Changes in EYFS:

If you are not familiar with and would like to learn more about the Early Years Foundation Stage and the importance of early years education, please follow the link:

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/files/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

There have been some changes to statutory guidance on safeguarding, nutrition and qualification requirements introduced this September. To find some information on these changes, please follow the link:

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/support-for-practitioners/changes-to-the-eyfs-framework>

You can find out more about the new nutrition guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-nutrition>

Our setting is already operating according to this new guidance by providing healthy and balanced snacks and encouraging our parents to pack their children's lunches with healthy options, as well as respecting our 'No Nuts' policy. You can read our policies on our website here :

<https://southmoretonpreschool.co.uk/policies-procedures/>

We do regular risk assessment on food allergies. Our latest risk assessment has shown that we currently have a person with an allergy to **shellfish** so, please, don't include shellfish in your child's lunchbox to keep that person safe.

Tapestry & Wow Moments:



To keep you informed about your child's learning at pre-school, we try to regularly post observations on Tapestry. Please, log on to your Tapestry account to read the observations and feel free to comment and add to them by sharing photos and special moments you have with your children at home. Your contributions will help us to get to know your child even better and offer the curriculum that follows their interests and needs. Please note that from November Tapestry is changing their look so the pages will look different.

Soon we will give you a 'Wow Moment' form to fill in and send back to pre-school. 'Wow moments' are snapshots of children's learning and achievements at home and they will help practitioners to form observations. Recording 'wow' moments (when a child does or says something to show they have achieved a level of understanding of a topic aim) helps us practitioners to assess a child's development and plan their next steps. Examples of wow moments could be building a block tower on their own, helping with shopping, putting their coat on by themselves, writing their name, recognising numbers etc. The 'wow moments' will be displayed on our Wow board and, later, kept as evidence in the children's learning journeys.

Absences Policy:

Just a polite reminder that if your child is absent from the pre-school due to appointments, illnesses or holidays, you must contact us and let us know the reason for absence and length of absence. If your child is then unable to return to the pre-school after the agreed absence period, you must again contact the pre-school. Please, do this via phone call or email before 10 am. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Working with parents:



Next term we would like to continue with our Woodland Walks and, this time, take the children on educational walks around the village. However, this would require higher adult: child ratios so we are looking for parents to come along and help us to supervise children. If you have some spare time during the day and would be able to help, please let us know. We do the walks once a week, and each week a different day. Once we plan the walks for next term, we will put a sign-up sheet on the white board by the entrance door.

We would also love to open the door to our parents during the sessions and re-introduce a 'Story Time with our Parents'. If you have half an hour spare in the afternoon and would like to come to pre-school to read a story to the children, please let us know and we will arrange the time. The children would love to have their parents or grandparents taking part!



Story Book Bags & Bertie Bear:

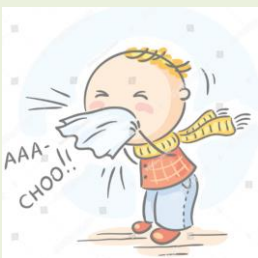


Our story book bags are coming home soon! They were very popular last school year so we would like to continue with this initiative and further develop our children's love for books. We will send home with your child a book bag with two to three books inside, together with a reading record and instructions. Please, when it is your turn, share these stories at bedtime and bring the book bag back to the pre-school for your child's next session so that the other children can have their go too.

Bertie Bear is one more initiative we re-introduced last year, and it was very popular with the children. Bertie is a take-home teddy for children to look after and to be a part of your child's everyday activities and pretend play for a week. Bertie has a small bag with his belongings and a diary in which we will ask you to record Bertie's days at your home. We hope you will support us with this initiative this year again and we will have some lovely stories about our children and their families at the end of this school year.



When to Keep a Child at Home?



We know that sometimes is very hard to decide if your child is well enough to go to pre-school, especially when colds and virus infections are around us with colder weather arriving. While it is usually safe to send the children to pre-school with mild illnesses, like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat, there are steps you can take to ensure your child is better protected against illnesses, so that they don't miss out on vital time in pre-school. Please follow the links here:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/10/top-tips-how-child-healthy-school/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Oral Health:



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 our documentation.

Staff update:

As you already know, this September we welcomed two new pre-school practitioners to our team, Tracey Webb and Barbara Osiecka. We are delighted to confirm that they are both doing great and already much loved by the children.

We are happy to confirm that this school year again Miss Lucy from Kinecroft Academy of Dance will do regular dance classes on Wednesday morning at our pre-school. Miss Lucy is always looking for some new pupils to attend her classes at the Academy so, if you are interested, please get in touch. Her poster with all the information can be found displayed on our entrance door.

Management Committee

Our AGM which was held on 9th October at the Crown Pub was a great success!

Thank you to everyone who attended, and we would like to say a big welcome to our new committee members: Sophie Morrison, Karen Whiting, Tara & Tom Capocci, Georgia Learoyd & Hayley Tailford.

Re-elected and continuing members to serve on the committee are Matt Roberts (Chair), Katie Defrates (Cochair), Ali Milne (newly elected Treasurer), Katie Whitehead (newly elected Secretary), Natasha Coll, Alex Haworth-Lewis, Shirin Jowhari Moghadam & Alice Jones. We are grateful for their continued support.

We also want to say a big thank you for all their commitment and dedication to our preschool over the years as we bid goodbye to some of our committee members: Clemmie Gilbert (previous Secretary), Shirley Ndahogh (previous Treasurer) & Andrew Vivian who are leaving us, you will be missed.

Reminders

Term 2 Invoices

Term 2 invoices were sent out recently, so if you could please pay these as soon as possible it would be appreciated.

Lunch Boxes



Can we, please, remind you about our Healthy Eating Policy in pre-school. If you are sending in a lunch box for your child, this should not contain sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks. We have a 'No Nut' Policy in the pre-school so, please, no food that contains nuts and we recently have a person in preschool who is allergic to shellfish so if this could also be avoided it would be appreciated. If you are sending in grapes or cherry tomatoes with your child, please cut them in half to avoid choking.

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 & T-Shirts



If you would like to purchase our own pre-school logo hoodies or t-shirts, please feel free to contact a member of staff. They cost £18 for a hoodie and £11 for a t-shirt.





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!

Upcoming Events

Autumn 'Guess The Pumpkin Weight'



We run an annual Autumnal Guess the Pumpkin Weight competition and slips will be coming home to you soon. We are asking for £2 for you to guess the correct weight to the nearest gram and the winner will be revealed Wednesday 22nd October so that you can take away your yummy prize before half term.

Berkshire Primary Images – Thursday 20th November



We have Berkshire Primary Images coming in on Thursday 20th November to take photos of the children for Christmas. These photos are lovely gifts for family and friends and the pre-school gets a commission from any photos that we sell. If your child is not in pre-school on this day, you are more than welcome to come in with your child as we wouldn't want anyone to miss out. A letter will be sent home nearer the time with more information.

Nativity & Christmas Raffle – Saturday 6th December

Please keep this date in your diary as this is when we are planning on holding our annual Nativity and raffle at South Moreton Church. If you would be able to donate anything towards our raffle, please let us know. Watch this space for more details soon.....



Save the Dates for Fundraising Events for 2026

Please put these future dates in your diary for events we are planning on holding in 2026. More details will follow nearer the time so watch this space.....

- **Valentines Celebration Fundraiser – w/c 9th February**
- **Easter Celebration Fundraiser – During March**
- **Bikeathon & Fun Day – Saturday 9th May**
- **Sports Day – Tuesday 9th June at 9.30am**
- **End of Year Summer Concert & Leavers Ceremony – Saturday 4th July at 10am**

Easy Fundraising

Can we please remind all parents that we are signed up to Easy Fundraising! These are really easy ways to raise money for the pre-school every time you shop. You can use the Easy Fundraising site to shop online with more than 4,000 well known online stores like Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S and when you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you. To register for this please go to:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/southmoretonpreschool/> and click 'support us'.

Dates for your Diary:

October

Wednesday 22nd

Autumn Guess the Pumpkin Competition
Winner Announced

Thursday 23

End of Term 1

Friday 24

Inset Day – Pre-School Closed

November

Monday 3rd

Start of Term 2

Thursday 20th

Christmas Photos, 10am

December

Saturday 6th

Nativity at 10am

Friday 19th

End of Term 2

January 2026

Tuesday 6th

Start of Term 3

February

w/c 9th

Valentines Fundraiser

Friday 13th

End of Term 3

Monday 23rd

Start of Term 4

March

TBC

Easter Fundraiser

Monday 27th

End of Term 4

April

Monday 13th

Start of Term 5

May

Saturday 9th

Bikeathon & Fun Day

Friday 22nd

End of Term 5

June

Monday 1st

Start of Term 6

Tuesday 9th

Sports Day, 9.30am

July

Saturday 4th

Summer Concert & Leavers Ceremony, 10am

Friday 17th

End of Term 6