

Newsletter



Welcome to our new families that have joined us this term. 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

In Term 2 we celebrated Bonfire Night and commemorated Remembrance Day where we created firework and bonfire crafts and poppies for our soldiers. During Anti-Bullying Week, we read 'The Three Little Pigs' and explored ways of how to be kind to each other. We also had Road Safety Week and went to the park to practice road safety rules on the way. In the pre-school garden we had our own road with a zebra crossing and traffic lights which was lots of fun! We celebrated Scottish Day and made some shortbread which were very yummy! However, our big highlight was of course our Nativity play at the church. The children all did amazingly well on the day we were so proud of them.

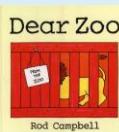


Term 3

Our first day back in Term 3 had some extra excitement with snow arriving as a special treat for the children to have lots of fun with and talk about Winter. We have also been reading 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' story, we even cooked our own porridge, which proved to be very popular! We have also been talking about woodland and polar animals and last week was The Big Garden Bird Watch and the children made some bird feeders.



What's Next



Next week, we will be learning about our pets and reading the 'Dear Zoo' story. If you have pets at home, please send us some photos of your pets so that we can use them for our discussions at carpet times. We would also love to make a photo display for the children to look at and talk about. We are finishing Term 3 with Valentine's Week! The children are invited to dress up in their favourite costumes for a £1 donation and take part in our Valentine's disco that we will hold every day at the end of the sessions. We will also draw the Rainbow Valentine's raffle which has been organised by our fundraising team. The raffle tickets have already been sent home to you, more information can be found in our fundraising section below.

Term 4

Our main themes in Term 4 will be Chinese New Year, British Science Week, Mother's Day Week and Spring.



Please keep checking our Facebook group for the weekly updates. Also, to find out about your child's learning, please log onto Tapestry to read our daily observations.

Parent and Key Person Meetings and Wow Moments:

Our parent and key person meetings were a great success last term! We want to thank everyone who came and met with us. We found them very helpful and we hope you feel the same. The next set of meetings will be held in March. More details to follow.



Our Wow Moments board is now full! Thank you for sharing your children's learning achievements at home with us last term. We would love to keep maintaining our board so, please, if your child has learnt any new skill or mastered something new, let us know so that we can update the board.

Working with Parents:



We would 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. We already had some parents visiting and the children loved it!

Huge thanks to everyone who supported us on our church walks in December! It was a great help in keeping children safe on the road. Next term, we will start walking around the village again and we would appreciate your help. 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 on 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.



Story Book Bags and Bertie Bear – Reminders:



Our story book bags are very popular; the children love taking them home. Please, when it is your turn, share the 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 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. Again, Bertie is very popular, and everyone is keen to have their turn so, please, don't keep Bertie with you for longer than a week.



Oral Health and Healthy Smiles Accreditation:

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.

We are a Healthy Smiles accredited pre-school, which means we are supporting the Oxfordshire scheme that aims to develop and maintain positive oral health practices. Our accreditation is running out this March, so we plan to work hard to re-new it. Next term, children will be offered activities that promote oral hygiene and healthy eating. We are expecting a visit from a dental nurse and planning to do a lunch box audit. More information to follow.



Potty Training:

We're delighted to share the brand-new Potty-Training Guide, developed by the early years sector. This practical, research-informed Guide gives clear advice on when and how to potty train children. It is designed to help early years settings and families work together confidently.



Evidence shows that it is best for bowel and bladder health to stop using nappies between 18 and 30 months. The longer potty training is delayed, the more challenging it can become. To access the guide, please follow the link: <https://startingreception.co.uk/potty-training/#introduction>

CBeebies Parenting:

If you are looking for some fun play activities to support your children's development, especially their communication and language, or you need some trusted expert-led tips and advice, we recommend CBeebies Parenting website. CBeebies Parenting offers a wide range of *free* resources that will empower you to support your children's play. <http://bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting>



EYA Family Corner:

We also recommend the Alliance's newly relaunched website for families. They offer a wide range of exciting sessions for parents and carers who would like to learn more about supporting their children's learning. If you are interested in learning more about development, please check the Family Connect online sessions page to see if there is a session that catches your eye. [Home | Early Years Alliance Family Corner](#)



Staff Update:

As you all now know, Lily is retiring at the end of Term 4 after 10 years of being such a wonderful Manager at our little pre-school. She will be sorely missed by all and will leave big boots to fill! We would like to wish her well with her recent move and whatever her next chapter brings. Please stay in touch Lily and come back to visit us!



We will keep you posted about Lily's replacement. If you think you know someone who may be interested in the role please share our advert with them which can be found on Indeed <https://uk.indeed.com/job/pre-school-manager-d341031d7bf5af29> or get them to get in contact with us.

Management Committee & Parent Survey:

Our next Management Committee is being held on 3rd March at 8pm via Teams. If you are interested in joining the committee please speak to a member of staff who can give you more details.

An email was sent home to you this week with a Parent Survey that we would like you to complete. This survey is an important way that you can communicate your opinions and ideas, give any praise or concerns about the pre-school and help us to improve our practice. The survey can be found on this link and your reply will be anonymous <https://forms.gle/qhpyhouzwfWxsYrV6>. If you could complete the survey by 13th February 2026, that would be appreciated.



When to Keep a Child at Home & Absence Recording:



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/>

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.

Healthy Eating Policy – Nuts & Shellfish:



The safety of our children and staff is of the utmost importance to us and therefore, we have a 'No Nut' or 'Shellfish' policy in place at the pre-school to protect those who suffer from these types of allergies. We endeavour to ensure that these products are not used within our pre-school and we also ask you to not provide these types of foods in your child's lunch boxes or send in for birthday treats or other food sharing opportunities that we have. We thank you for your understanding.

Reminders

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!

Pre-School 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!

Money Raised

Christmas Fundraising

Our Christmas Fundraising events were a huge success. We had our first Christmas Wreath Making Workshop, had a Teddy Tombola at the school's fete and held our annual Nativity and Christmas Raffle which was held at the church. We managed to raise a whopping £985, so thank you to everyone who helped make the events happen, to everyone for coming along and supporting us and a huge thank you to all the people and companies who donated to our raffle, there were some amazing prizes.



Upcoming Events

Valentines Rainbow Raffle – Draw taking place 9th February

Dress Up Week & Disco – Last Week of Term, w/c 9th February



Our Valentines Rainbow Raffle is well underway and raffle tickets have been sent home with you already. The prizes will be drawn on Monday 9th February so that the winners have the week to collect their prize before the end of term. We have two amazing hampers put together by our fundraiser Hayley, Daisy's mum, thank you Hayley and to all who donated! Can we please ask you to return your sold tickets by Friday 6th February.

If you would like more raffle tickets, please let us know. Raffle tickets are £1 each.

We are also holding a Valentine's Dress Up Week! The children are invited to dress up in their favourite costumes for a £1 donation and take part in our Valentine's disco that we will hold every day at the end of the sessions. A jar can be found in preschool if you wish to donate when you bring your child in.



Easter 'Days Out' Raffle – Draw taking place 23rd March & Easter Bonnet Week – Last week of Term 4, w/c 23rd March



We will be holding our usual Easter 'Days Out' Raffle for the Easter Holidays. More details to come home to you at the beginning of Term 4. We have some amazing days out for you to use during the Easter Holidays, with a Golden Ticket to the Roald Dahl museum, amongst others!

We will also be holding our usual Easter Bonnet Week during the last week of Term 4 where we will be discussing Easter and have lots of fun things for the children to do. The children can bring in their Easter Bonnets all week to show off and see how proud they are of their creations they have made with you at home, we can't wait to see what they have made! Again, we are asking for a £1 donation for the weeks activities.



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.....

- Bikeathon & Fun Day – Saturday 9th May
- Sports Day – Tuesday 9th June at 9.30am
- World Cup Sweepstake – in June/July
- 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.easystrenght.org.uk/causes/southmoretonpreschool/> and click 'support us'.

Dates for your Diary:

<p>February</p> <p><u>w/c Monday 9th February</u> Valentines Dress Up Week & Disco</p> <p><u>Monday 9th February</u> Rainbow Raffle Draw</p> <p><u>Friday 13th</u> End of Term 3</p> <p><u>Monday 23rd</u> Start of Term 4</p> <p>March</p> <p><u>Tuesday 3rd March</u> Committee Meeting, 8pm</p> <p><u>w/c Monday 23rd March</u> Easter Bonnet Week</p> <p><u>Monday 23rd March</u> Easter Raffle Draw</p> <p><u>Monday 27th</u> End of Term 4</p>	<p>April</p> <p><u>Monday 13th</u> Start of Term 5</p> <p>May</p> <p><u>Saturday 9th</u> Bikeathon & Fun Day</p> <p><u>Friday 22nd</u> End of Term 5</p> <p>June</p> <p><u>Monday 1st</u> Start of Term 6</p> <p><u>Tuesday 9th</u> Sports Day, 9.30am</p> <p>July</p> <p><u>Saturday 4th</u> Summer Concert & Leavers Ceremony, 10am</p> <p><u>Friday 17th</u> End of Term 6</p>
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