



What we are up to

We would like to extend a welcome to all our new families that have joined us, and welcome back to the children and families who have stayed with us. We hope you all had a lovely summer break.

This is our newsletter, which we send out half termly, to keep you up to date with what the preschool is doing, let you know of some dates for your diaries and provide some gentle reminders of what you can do to help the preschool run smoothly.

Things to remember...

Please do not park your car in the horse-shoe area outside of the school gates. We appreciate that parking outside school can be a challenge, but this area needs to be kept clear for emergency vehicles.

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home and let the preschool know. If your child has sickness or diarrhea they should not return to preschool until 48 hours after the last time

they were sick; if your child has been given calpol on a morning they would normally attend preschool, they should remain at home and if your child has a continuous new cough, high temperature and/or cold symptoms they should also remain at home. This will help protect us all. Thank you.

The children have settled well on their return to preschool, and we are enjoying getting to know them and seeing how much returning children have grown and developed over the summer.

The New operating hours for Preschool

Beginning this year we have combined all of our age groups so that 2, 3 and 4 years olds can attend from 8.30 - 4pm Monday to Friday. This is so that we can offer eligible families with 2 year olds, 15 hours free childcare when it becomes effective next April.

As a consequence of this change we have less preschool spaces available. In the past we have been

Dates to Remember

Preschool Committee AGM
Thursday 5th October
7.30pm

**Halloween Fun and
Pumpkin Trail**
Sunday 29th October

Last day of this half term
Friday 20th October

Half term break
Preschool closed
23rd-27th October

**First day of second half
term**
Monday 30th October

Bags2School collection
Monday 13th November

Looking ahead
Nativity and Preschool
Christmas party
Wednesday 20th December

You can also find a link here for the term date calendar for the whole of next year
[Term dates and school holidays 2023-2024 - Norfolk County Council](#)

flexible, allowing parents to change and swap days at short notice, however moving forward this is not going to be possible. We will send out forms towards the end of each term asking you reconfirm your requirements for the next term. We do appreciate that personal circumstances can change and we will try to accommodate you all as best we can but we apologise now if we are unable to do so.

Funding

Preschool funding is currently available for 3 and 4 year olds. This consists of 15 hours universal entitlement for all children which becomes available the term after their 3rd birthday. In addition, for working parents this can be extended to 30 hours per week. Currently 2 year old funding is available only to those parents claiming benefits. However this is set to change in April next year. To keep up to date with what you are entitled to go to the childcare choices website at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Did you know that we may be entitled to £300 additional funding to improve the education of your 3 or 4 year old? This is called Early Years Pupil Premium, EYPP and to find out if you qualify call the Family Information Service

on 0344 800 8020 or go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/eypp

Family Activity morning

The next Activity morning will be on Monday 4th December. This is an opportunity for you to attend with our child for an hour or so of activities and a story on a theme. More details will follow nearer the time.

The Preschool committee AGM

We are a committee run preschool and without our committee the preschool would have to close.

We meet once a month, usually at the beginning of the month on a Thursday from 7.30pm until 8.30/9pm.

During these meetings we discuss the past month at preschool, the preschool finances, we plan fundraising events to support the preschool and discuss and make decisions, with regard to the running of the preschool.

It's a great opportunity for you to get involved and have your say in supporting the preschool and providing the best experiences for your child and the other children.

Our AGM is being held on Thursday 5th October, (more information to

follow). So please come along and see what the preschool is all about.

Our current committee member are:

Will Wilson (Chairperson)
Laura Cross (Vice Chairperson)
Gemma O'Brien (Secretary)
Diane Calvert (Treasurer)
Abigail Jenkins (Preschool Manager)
Charlie Wood
Zoe Smith
Danielle Edwards
Zoe Lawrence

Staff Changes

After nearly 20 years Mrs. Emma Ellis (Deputy Manager), has decided it is time for her to leave the preschool. We are all very sad to be saying goodbye to her at the end of this term (December 2023).

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Hollie Durrant was keen to apply for promotion for the role as Deputy Manager and over this term will be receiving training from Emma ready to take on the role as Deputy Manager from January 2024.

We are also pleased to say that India Bonnett has been promoted to an Early Years Practitioner, previously Early Years Relief worker. With all these changes we will also be looking to employ a new member of staff in the future. If this is something you are interested in, please look out for our job advert coming soon!

Wish Tree

Once a month we will post our "Wish Tree". This is our way of asking for small donations of items for snack, like apples or bread sticks, daily cleaning products like anti-bacterial spray or resources we can use for messy play like shaving foam or cornflour. If you are able to help by donating one of the items listed it helps to keep some of our costs down. Look out for the post and thank you in advance for your support.

Beetley Bears

Our Stay and Play sessions continue at the village hall on Thursday's from 9.30-11am. The price is £3 per family (up to 2 adults and 2 children) with an additional 50p per additional child. This is a good way to meet and socialise with other families for both children and parents/carers.

Buds & Blooms

Our Baby sensory sessions are going from strength to strength. Run by Zoe Smith, a member of our committee, children aged 0-12 months can enjoy singing, signing and baby massage routines, all good ways to support a baby's early language development. These are also held at the village hall on Thursdays from 9.30-10.30am and cost £4 per

session. Please email the preschool if you are interested and to check availability of spaces and please feel free to share these details with friends and family who may have little ones. Thank you.

Policies

The following policies were recently reviewed and adopted by the committee: Equality & Diversity; Equality & Diversity compliance statement; Parental Involvement; Complaints; Data protection; Admissions & Operation of Waiting list, Grievance Procedure, Staff support and supervision; Standards of Behaviour; Professional conduct Agreement; Disciplinary Procedure; and Staff suitability declaration form.

Copies are available on our website or speak to Abby or Emma.

Bags2School collection



A collection has been arranged for Monday 13th November, so if you are having a clear out, please bag up your items and bring into preschool by 9am on the day. Click below for a reminder of what they will take.

www.bag2school.ie/what-we-collect Thank you.

As you shop you could also help raise money for the preschool.

You can do so by using "easyfundraising.co.uk".

Follow the links below to register your support and a percentage of what you spend will be donated to the pre-school.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk . Thank you

"My School Fund", in association with Sainsbury's, Argos and Espo, links your spend at these shops with your chosen school, meaning that every time you make a purchase you both benefit. Both the school and you will receive an eGift card to spend at participating retailers based on a percentage of your overall spend. Visit www.myschoolfund.org for more details and to sign up for free.