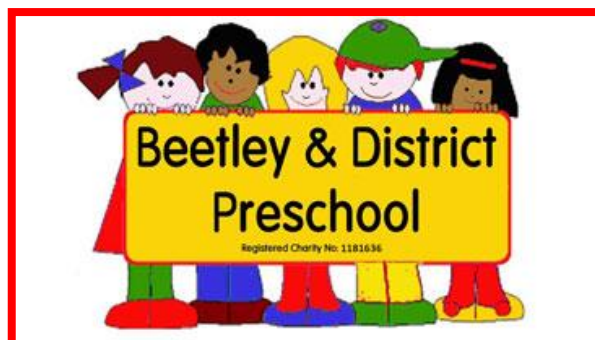


Spring | Issue 1  
**January 2024**



## Welcome back

### What have we been up to...

Christmas seems a distant memory now but thank you so much on behalf of all the staff for our lovely gifts, cards and goodies that will keep us going through the coming months. It was very kind and very much appreciated!

Hopefully you enjoyed the Nativity and Christmas party as much as we did. The children gave a fantastic performance in the church and it was lovely to see all the families socialising after with an amazing spread! A massive thank you for making this possible with your donations.



In December, we went on the Pensthorpe trip that we won from their Scarecrow competition we entered. We had a great day exploring around the lakes and gardens, feeding the ducks, visiting the Flamingos and Den building. We then went into the Wild Rootz outdoor play area followed by lunch and finished the day inside Hootz house play area. It is hoped the children and parents that joined us had a lovely day.



Gressenhall Fete and Events Committee gave us the opportunity to decorate a tree decoration for their Christmas Tree again this year. The winners were invited to switch on the Christmas lights at their event.

Welcome to the new children who have joined us this term, we are enjoying getting to know them. We have several children on the waiting list for this year and next so if you have siblings or know of others who are interested in the preschool please get in touch.

We have kicked off the term with the topic 'Healthy Me'. The children have been learning about healthy food, staying active and how to care for our teeth.

Our next planned topics and celebrations are 'Story Telling', 'Chinese New Year', 'Shrove Tuesday' and 'Valentine's Day' to finish off this half term.

### Staff Changes

Sadly, we said goodbye to Mrs. Emma Ellis at the end of last term and Mrs. Hollie Durrant has taken the role of Deputy.

Mrs. Toni Tinker is settling in well as the new member of staff, we hope you have had a chance to meet her.



Unfortunately, Mrs. Sarah Knights will be leaving us at Easter. She has decided it is time for her to spend more time with her family. We are advertising for a new member of staff to join us in April.



### Fundraising

**Wreath making** - The event was well attended again this year with some really beautiful wreaths being made. Thank you for your continued support at one of our biggest fundraisers in the year. We raised over £1140!! Thank you to the committee, staff and parent helpers who supported us, we couldn't do it without you!



**Fakenham Christmas Tree Festival** – Our chosen theme for the tree this year was ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’. Miss. East’s Partner kindly made us some wooden fruit shapes for the children to decorate. We had some lovely feedback and managed to raise £134.13 for the preschool.



A **Bag2School** collection has been arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> April, 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](http://www.bag2school.ie/what-we-collect) Thank you.



As you shop “[easyfundraising.co.uk](http://easyfundraising.co.uk)” is another way you could also help raise money for the preschool. You can do so by following the link below to register your support and a percentage of what you spend will be donated to the preschool. [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

“**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](http://www.myschoolfund.org) for more details and to sign up for free.

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 corn-flour. 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.

#### Things to remember...

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

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 it occurred; if your child has been given Paracetamol 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.

## **Funding**

Preschool funding is currently available for 3 and 4 year old's. This consists of 15 hours universal entitlement for all children which becomes available the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. To keep up to date with what you are entitled to go to the childcare choices website at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/eypp)

## **The Preschool Committee**

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. If you would like to be involved, please message or speak to a member of staff/committee.

Our current committee members are:

Laura Cross (Chairperson)

Will Wilson (Secretary)

Diane Calvert (Treasurer)

Abigail Jenkins (Preschool Manager)

Charlie Wood

Zoe Smith

Danielle Edwards

Zoe Lawrence

Becca Reynolds

Amy Pulfer

## Policies

The following policies were recently reviewed and adopted by the committee:

Child protection, Safeguarding, Looked after Children, Safeguarding IT Policy to include – Use of Mobiles Cameras, Babysitting and Whistle Blowing.

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

### Dates for the Diary

19 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> February	February Half Term
28 <sup>th</sup> March- 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holiday
25 <sup>TH</sup> April	Bags to School
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Duck Race
27 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> May	May Half Term
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day (Summer)
28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> November	Wreath Making

## Babies and Toddlers

*Run by Beetley and District Preschool*

### Beetley Bears

Stay and Play group.  
Age range: 0-4 years  
£3 per family of up to 2 children,  
includes a snack for the children  
and a hot drink for adults.  
Additional children are 50p.  
9.30am-11am

### Buds 'n' Blooms

Baby sensory, sing and sign.  
Age range: 0-12 months  
£4 per family, includes a hot  
drink for adults.  
9.30am-10.30am

**Beetley Village Hall**  
High House Road  
Beetley  
NR20 4BY

### Thursdays Term Time

01362 860860  
office@beetley-preschool.org

