

 Newsletter

 24th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4! I hope you have had a good holiday and some well-deserved family time.

**Parents Evening**

We will be holding Parents Evening on Tuesday 10th March from 5:30pm. This will be an opportunity for us to have an informal chat with you about.

* Your child’s progress at pre-school
* Share information
* Find out more about the assessments
* Discuss any concerns
* Hand out your child’s learning journey

If you would like to have a chat with your child’s keyperson, then please book a 10-minute slot on the booking sheet.

**Funded Two-year-olds**

We are now taking funded twos. This is Early Education for 2-year olds that is part of the government agenda to support and improve outcomes for children through access to high quality early years settings.

Your child may be eligible if you meet some of the criteria including Income Support, Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit when earning £16,190 a year or less and/or children with Special Education Needs. For a full list of criteria, please contact Swindon Borough Council Early Years Funding 07823525441.

If you would like a space from **Term 5** please see Katie or email wroughtonpreschool\_enqiry@live.co.uk as soon as possible.

**Funding- 3 and 4-year-olds**15 Hours-
All 3 and 4-year old children are entitled to 15 hours free childcare per week. This funding from the Government starts from 1st September, 1st January or 1st April (the beginning of the 3 funding terms) following the child’s 3rd birthday.
30 Hours-
Working families may also be entitled to an additional 15 hours free childcare per week, making a total of 30 hours. To check if you are eligible to receive this funding please refer to <https://childcarechoices.gov.uk>

Please note that you must apply and receive your eligibility code before the beginning of the funding term for which you wish to use the additional hours. For example, if you wish to use the extra hours from September (for our Terms 1 and 2) you must have the code before the end of August.

Tax-Free Childcare-

Please refer to the website to see if you can apply for tax-free childcare where for every £8 you pay into an account; the government will add an additional £2. This is available for children up to 11 years old.

Early Years Pupil Premium-

This is an additional sum of money paid to providers for eligible children aged 3 and 4. The funding is used to enhance their early years’ experience by improving the teaching, learning, facilities and resources, with the aim of enhancing your child’s progress and development. If your family income is below £16,190 and you are in receipt of benefits or your child is adopted or has left local authority care, then your child may be eligible to receive the additional funding. Please tick the appropriate box on the Parental Declaration Form. If your child is already funded but your financial situation has changed, which may affect their eligibility, please ask Katie for a new form.If you have any funding queries, please see Katie or email her on wroughtonpreschool\_enquiries@live.co.uk

**Termly Theme**

We have some fun days/ themes coming up this term.

Our themes for this term are as follows;

**Week 1- Pancake day / Lent**

**Week 2 - Mini Beasts (World Book Day)**

**Week 3 - Gardening (Holi)**

**Week 4 – Mother’s Day / St Patrick’s Day**

**Week 5 – Spring weather in different countries**

**Week 6 – Easter**

**World Book day – Thursday 5th March – Children can come to Preschool dressed in their favourite book character costumes.**

**Chick Chase – Our annual chick chase is on Thursday 2nd April at 11am approximately. Children need to be accompanied by an adult to participate. Further details will follow.**

**Interactive Learning Diary**

Thank you to the parents who are contributing to the ILD, it is lovely to see what your child can do at home. We really appreciate a comment or thumbs up on the observations, so we know they are being read. For the many parents that are not looking at the ILD you are missing out on some great photos and observations of your children and missing out on what they have been doing at Preschool. We will not be printing these off when your child leaves to go to school. If you need to set up ILD or need a new password, please email or see Katie.

**Lost Property**

We are having a lot of items left at Preschool each day. Please check the lost property box in the main entrance.

A lot of the children’s lunch boxes, bags, hats and gloves still aren’t labelled. This can cause unnecessary waiting time for the children as staff waste precious time looking for items. Please ensure all belongings are clearly labelled.

**Preschools clothing**

If your child has been sent home in Preschool clothing, please can you ensure they are returned as soon as possible. We are missing a lot of socks, pants and trousers. Please make sure your child has a change of clothes in their bag and a few changes if they are potty training.

**Donations**

A huge thank you for all your kind donations last term. Every donation really does help to keep costs down for the Preschool. If you would like to donate this term, please see below for items required;

Fresh fruit, Vegetables e.g. carrots, cucumber, tomatoes. Cheese, Cereal, Raisins, Boxed tissues, Nappy sacks, Dettol antibacterial spray.

Please look out for our ‘donations needed’ list on our notice board.

**Children and online safety**

Ofcom’s ‘Children and Parents Media Use and Attitudes Report’ (2018 – released in January 2019) found that:

1% of 3-4-year olds have their own smartphone and 19% have their own tablet

52% of 3-4-year olds go online for an average of nearly 9 hours a week

45% of 3-4-year olds use YouTube

Risks could be posed to early years children because of the online behaviour of their parents/carers; this could include oversharing information about their children (or other children) online, and could, for example, include information which could identify a child or the nursery that they attend. Children could be neglected because of their parents or carers overuse of the internet, or because of parents or carers failing to safeguard them online. Below are some useful links to help and support parents or carers about keeping their children safe online at home

AskAboutGames: [Supporting families with video games](http://www.askaboutgames.com/early-years-children-and-safe-online-gaming)

Childnet: [Keeping under-fives safe online](https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/keeping-young-children-safe-online/?tempid=1326955)

Internet Matters: [Guidance for parents of pre-schoolers](https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/)

London Grid for Learning: [Portal](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations/parentsafe.lgfl.net) linking to various resources on parental engagement around online safety

NSPCC: [Guidance for parents on keeping children safe online](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)

Parent Zone: [Digital Parenting magazine](https://parentzone.org.uk/projects/digital-parenting-magazine)

[Parent Info](https://parentinfo.org/)

Thinkuknow: [Guidance and information for parents/carers](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents) from NCA-CEOP

**Diary Dates**

Term 4 commences - Monday 24th February

Parents Evening – Tuesday 10th March 5.30pm onwards

Chick Chase – Thursday 2nd April (AM) (details to follow)

Last day of term 4 – Friday 3rd April

Term 5 commences – Monday 20th April

**Reminder** If you need to contact us about your child such as change of pick up, sickness etc. please use the Preschool room number **812888**. If it is a concern or question about your child you can also email me zenaw.wps@outlook.com or ask to speak to me in the setting.

Kind regards

Zena

Supervisor