



Registered Charity Number 1155711
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April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

It's been a very busy half term especially with the added excitement of our OFSTED inspection! We are all thrilled to have been recognised as an outstanding setting and would like to thank all the parents who have congratulated us.

We would like you to know that we will strive to build on this success as we look to the future. Our pre-school committee are putting together a parent survey, please keep an eye on your inbox.

For St David's Day we made lots of paintings and drawings of daffodils and one of our morning children dressed up in her mummy's (child size) traditional Welsh clothes! We really enjoyed hearing all about Wales, having a look at the map of Great Britain and the chance to see a Welsh doll.

If you would like to share a special event/celebration with us, we are always pleased to hear from you. You might like to bring in an object which your child or yourself, could show the group. Please remember that you can always upload photographs to Tapestry. We now have access to a kindle and iPad which the children can use to access their Tapestry account whilst at pre-school.

Shrove Tuesday was great fun as usual and we had lots of laughs when all our morning children and teachers had a turn at tossing a pancake with a frying pan. In the morning and afternoon, we made and ate our pancakes for snack. Saira conducted an experiment with the morning children. The children were able to watch how their pancake mixture changed consistency as it was heated using a baked bean tin to conduct heat from a tealight. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to build some scientific knowledge and vocabulary as well as learning about safety.

Thank you to all the children who came in dressed up as their favourite character for World Book Day! We all enjoyed talking about favourite stories and sharing books together.

St Patrick's Day quickly followed St David's Day and provided another opportunity to have a look at the map and compare the location of Wales and Ireland. We enjoyed colour mixing with yellow and blue to make the Irish colour (green) to paint shamrocks. In the morning and afternoon, we all 'had a go' at making some Irish music with bells and dancing along to the 'cockles and mussels' song.

Thank you for the charitable donations and to all the children who came dressed in red for Red Nose Day! We raised £58.62!

We hope all our pre-school mums received their Mother's Day cards from the children which featured some of the lovely daffodil still life pictures our morning children created earlier in the term. Our afternoon children all worked hard to create their own colouring, painting and collages.

We are ending the term with Easter. The children have enjoyed making Easter nest cakes. It has been fantastic to have the opportunity of Living Eggs back this year. The hatching of eggs and chicks enrich our curriculum offering a unique opportunity to cover all EYFS 'Areas of Learning' in a fun and engaging way. Thank you to all families who enabled us to offer this opportunity through your generous donations.

Thank you to all the afternoon families who joined us for the Easter Hat parade. It was lovely to see the wonderful hats that you all created at home with the children. We hope you enjoyed the children's fantastic singing. On Wednesday, our morning children enjoyed a very special Easter story with Bea's mummy followed by a visit from the Easter Bunny on the last day of term. We all enjoyed an egg treasure hunt in the garden and a lovely Easter theme music session with Catherine.

Primary School Application Outcomes

On the 16th April children who are currently attending our morning sessions should receive confirmation of the outcome of their primary school application. Please let us know which school your child will be moving onto, once you have received confirmation (an email is fine). We liaise with all local primary schools to ensure a smooth transition for your child.

School Readiness

For those children who are leaving us in July and starting school in September, we would like to share with you feedback from local Infant School teachers on the desirable skills children should have when entering reception classes: -

- Independence skills – dressing, toileting, playing
- Age appropriate communication and language skills
- Have an interest in books
- 'Have a go' at mark-making
- Ability to hold a pencil using a tripod grasp
- Meaningful counting

Friday 10th May – Zoolab Visit (morning children)

Zoolab will be visiting our morning children with their collection of exotic animals for the children to see and hold. This is always a very exciting morning for our Pre-School children!

Tuesday 11th June - Messy Play Afternoon (afternoon children and parents)

Our afternoon parents and children are invited to join us on Tuesday 11th June from 12.30 – 2.30pm with your child (all pm children are invited, regardless of their normal attendance days). This is an opportunity for you to get "messy" as you join in with a variety of activities with your child.

There will not be a usual Pre-School session on this afternoon and all children should be accompanied by an adult (it doesn't have to be a parent, it can be a grandparent or any other

carer) who will engage in the activities with them. Pre-School staff are not responsible for the children, so please make sure you or a carer can stay with your child and supervise them!

Pizza Express Outing – Wednesday 12th June (morning children)

This is a lovely outing to our local Pizza Express in Epsom. The children will each make their own pizza, which will be cooked, boxed up and given to them to bring home! More details will follow nearer the time.

Friday 12th July – Bocketts Farm Outing (morning children - no afternoon session on this day)

Our annual outing to Bocketts Farm will take place on Friday 12th July. We rely on some parent volunteer helpers to join us for the outing. More details will follow a little nearer the time.

Tuesday 23rd July – Our Last Day of Term!

There will be a party for all our children and their families from 10.30am - 1pm. More details will follow nearer the time

Opening times from September 2019

We are pleased to let you know that we will be extending our afternoon sessions to 3 hours, from September 2019, (currently 2.5 hours). The opening times for the afternoon sessions will therefore be 12.15 – 3.15pm.

Our morning session times will remain unchanged 8.45 – 11.45am and we will continue to offer Lunch Club from 11.45am – 12.15pm.

T-Shirts and Sweatshirts

We have new T-shirts and sweatshirts in stock. If your child's top needs replacing, or if you would like some additional items for the summer term, please complete an order form (in leaflet rack on the wall in reception).

Snack Time

Thank you very much to all our parents for their generous contributions for the children's snack time. We very much appreciate donations of any fresh fruit, bags of raisins, cheese, crackers or other snacks. Next term we would like to offer the children some new and exciting healthy, nut/meat free choices at snack time. Please let us know if you have any ideas. Thank you!

Consumables Wish List

Thank you again to all the families who have donated so generously with consumable items for Pre-School. This has really helped us over the last couple of terms and we value your support very much. There are still some items needed on the current list in reception, if you can donate an item.

Lunch Club (morning children)

Lunch Club is a fantastic opportunity for the children to build familiarity and independence, ready for school! If you think your child would like to join us for this fun, sociable activity we currently have a space available on Mondays and Wednesdays.

If your child already attends Lunch Club, you may like him/her to help choose the food they bring for their lunch. This strategy may support a fussy or reluctant eater to engage more successfully with the activity. Additionally, young children generally respond to a selection of small portions rather than one large portion of food.

Lunch club tables are closely supervised by our staff and the children really enjoy the experience of eating with their teachers and friends.

If your child would like to join lunch club for the summer term, please just let Nancy know.

We wish you all a fun filled Easter break!

Kind regards

St Martin's Pre-School Team