



Registered Charity Number 1155711  
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Dear Parents

We were all very excited when we came back after the half term holidays, because the butterflies had finally emerged from their chrysalis! The children really enjoyed observing the butterflies and then finally releasing them into the garden! Unfortunately, one of the butterflies had a broken wing and we decided to look after it instead of releasing it. Although this was a little sad, the children benefited from the opportunity care for the butterfly and to think about the limitations of having only one working wing.

Eid al-Fitr started with the end of Ramadan. Some children shared their experiences and Saira brought in some coloured rice for the children to make patterns with. For snack, the children made chapatis and a cucumber dip and we shared the Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns story.

Both the morning and afternoon children made some lovely cards for Father's Day! This was a great opportunity for the children to think about their own families, the things they do together and how they feel. The children practised using pencils and paint brushes to make purposeful marks including some lovely writing.

It was lovely to see our afternoon children bring in their parents/carers for our messy play afternoon - it really was very messy this year! Many of the children enjoyed mixing up the cornflour and hair conditioner to make cloud dough, cutting up spaghetti with scissors and planting seeds with Michele! Elizabeth made us some exciting ice to explore with the sea creatures.

Our morning children enjoyed an outing to Pizza Express and then Bocketts Farm. At Pizza Express, the children learnt about ingredients and had the opportunity to explore the dough before making their own margarita pizza! At Bocketts Farm the children had the opportunity to touch and learn about different farm animals. They fed some of the animals in the barn, explored the kitchen garden and enjoyed a tractor ride which was great fun! During both trips the children listened and followed all the safety instructions and the staff were all very proud. Thank you to all our parent volunteers.

As we have approached the end of term, our morning children have enjoyed stories and opportunities to talk about big school. This can be a very unsettling time, but many children have been keen to talk about the experiences they have had and what they know. You can continue to help your child with this process of change by sharing story books about starting school and allowing the child to lead any discussion they may/or may not wish to have.

The staff were all pleased to meet our new children and families at our open afternoons in July. These sessions provide an opportunity for the children to become familiar with the pre-school environment and the staff.

It was great to see so many of you at our garden party on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, which was to celebrate our 'outstanding' OFSTED and 10 years in our lovely building. We had such lovely feedback from this event and an article / photo regarding our party, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, appeared on the front page of the Surrey Comet!

We finish the summer term with our picnic in the garden for all our current families and children tomorrow, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 10.30am. Flossie the children's entertainer will be here at 10.30am and following her "show" we will have a short celebration for the children who are leaving us this year – each child will be presented with a "leaver's certificate". Please bring a picnic and a rug to sit on!

For those children joining us in September, we look forward to seeing many of our new starters again at our open morning on 6<sup>th</sup> September at 10am! Following a request from one of our new families, we have managed to source uniform in a smaller size, age 1 – 2 (90 – 92cm). These will be available from September 2019!

Pre-School re-opens for the autumn term on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Morning children should arrive at 8.45am and afternoon children at 12.15pm. For afternoon children, please remember that each child has been given their own start date, as children start over the first four weeks of the new term. If you are unsure, please check your letter which will confirm the start date for your child.

For those "morning" children who are in our lunch club, please provide your child with a packed lunch in a suitable named lunch bag (carriers bags are not suitable). Children should be collected no later than 12.15pm, from the side garden gate.

Finally, we wanted to say a massive thank you from all the team for the wonderful comments, feedback and good wishes we have received! Have a lovely summer everyone and our very best wishes to the children who are leaving us as they start their next chapter in Infant School!

Kind regards

St Martin's Pre-School Team