



Registered Charity Number 1155711  
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December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Below are some of the highlights from the last few weeks.

Following half term, we arrived back at pre-school just in time for bonfire night! During the first week, morning children enjoyed the story of Guy Fawkes and joined in with our firework experiment. We put a piece of effervescent vitamin tablet with some water into a plastic film canister then waited for it to blast off! The afternoon children also had lots of fun dripping paint to make firework pictures.

Remembrance Day followed, Jo brought in some toy soldiers which the children enjoyed as part of their imaginary and sensory play. The older children listened to stories about a mummy and daddy who are soldiers and thought about the different occupations their own parents might have. All morning children practised using scissors to create the magnificent wreath to decorate the pre-school door. Many of our afternoon children helped to make wreaths by printing with lots of red paint onto paper and paper plates with their hands! Remembrance Day was a fantastic opportunity to talk to the children about the people who help us.

Wendy and lots of the children have made a fantastic music area in the garden! The children have been experimenting and exploring objects and materials by hitting and scraping using empty containers, utensils and a wire rack.

Thank you to everyone who supported our pyjama day for Children in Need! Nancy has passed on your donations to the charity and we hope your child enjoyed coming to pre-school wearing their pyjamas as much as the staff did! On the day, we all enjoyed making spotty cakes and sharing stories about caring and helping others.

Thank you to all the afternoon parents who joined us for one of our 'circle time' sessions. We hope you found the sessions interesting and enjoyable. In the afternoon, circle time is an opportunity for the children to practise important skills such as waiting and listening. The staff were all really impressed with how well the children managed to sit and take part even with the excitement of their parents nearby!

We have a new globe of the world and jigsaws of Europe and the UK which the morning children used on St Andrews Day to look for Scotland. One of the children remembered visiting Scotland and lots of children thought about the different places that they have visited on holiday! We were able to use our new resources to look for some of these places and to think about where we live.

It's nearly Christmas! Our morning children took part in our annual nativity on Tuesday last week. Thank you to everyone who helped to junk model musical instruments and came to support this event. The children were all amazing and we hope you all enjoyed the show.

The last week of term is always a fun time with lots of Christmas, stories, music and activities for all the children to enjoy. Alongside Christmas, we have focused on rhyme, alliteration, number/2D and 3D shape recognition and fine motor (for writing) with our morning children. Our younger children continue focus on developing confidence and independence alongside developing listening skills, building vocabulary, understanding concepts (including, big/small, full/empty, more/less) and social skills including turn taking.

### **Special Days**

Special Days start on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January for morning children. A list of dates will be sent out at the beginning of term. Please try to remember when it is your child's Special Day as children do get upset if theirs is forgotten!

### **Sponsored Bounce Week – Starting Monday 3rd February**

During the week starting Monday 3rd February, we will be holding our annual sponsored bounce! We will send sponsor forms home with your child/ren and ask you to get as many sponsors as you can. Children each have a turn to bounce on the trampoline, whilst the number of bounces is counted. Some sponsors choose to sponsor per bounce (can get costly!) or just sponsor a sum for the total bounces done. The children really enjoy taking part in this and it is a big fundraiser for our Pre-School, with all money raised used for new resources, activities or outings at Pre-School.

This year we will also be raising money to enable us to book "Living Eggs" again – where children have the chance to look after and watch our chicken eggs hatching and then caring for the baby chicks! Please try and get as many sponsors as you can! Forms will be sent out nearer the time.

### **World Book Day – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Although a long way off at the moment, we will be celebrating World Book Day with the children on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Children will be invited to come to Pre-School dressed as their favourite book character.

### **Easter Hat Parade – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (afternoon children)**

To give you some notice, we would like to confirm that our Easter Hat Parade will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. We will ask you to make an Easter hat at home with your child, which they will then proudly show at the hat parade (in the garden if the weather is suitable). All children are invited to take part, even if Thursday is not their normal day. Parents are invited to come along at 2.15pm to watch; there will be music and songs for you to enjoy and a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny! More details to follow nearer the time.

Morning children will enjoy an Easter egg hunt in the garden on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, followed by a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny.

### **Termly Donations to Pre-School**

The Pre-School continues to operate in a very challenging financial climate. As you know, the Pre-School is a registered Charity, a non-profit making organisation, and we rely on voluntary contributions to help cover the shortfall between the amount the Government give in education funding and the real cost of running the Pre-School.

We are extremely grateful to all our parents for their continued support. If your child receives Early Years Funding, please can you pay your donation of £2.00 per session, as soon as you can at the beginning of each term.

You can also help in other ways, by purchasing one or two items from our “donation list” which is regularly displayed on the table/trolley in reception.

### **Mobile Phones**

Please can we ask you not to use your mobile phones in the reception area or when dropping off or collecting your child at Pre-School. Please give your child your full attention during these important times of the day!

### **Pre-School Toilets**

If your child needs the toilet on arrival at Pre-School, please let a member of staff know so that they can assist your child, if need be. Parents / carers should only go into the children’s cloakroom in Pre-School in exceptional circumstances. If your child needs a nappy change on arrival, please use the changing table in the toilet cubicle in reception.

### **No Wellies or Crocs at Pre-School**

Please can we remind parents that children cannot wear wellington boots or Crocs at Pre-School. Please can we ask that any children that arrive in wellies or Crocs, change into alternative footwear in reception.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas with your little ones and a Happy New Year!

We return to Pre-School on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Kind regards

St Martin’s Pre-School Team