



Worple Road, Epsom KT18 7AA  
Registered Charity Number 1155711  
01372 721 111

December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

As I am sure you are aware, Covid-19 has had a huge impact on our pre-school over the past year and while we hope you are looking forward to the upcoming holidays, we wanted to remind you of some of the guidance in place at this time.

Although the pre-school will be physically closed over the Christmas break, we will be open at the beginning of the break, to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as a child may have been infectious whilst at Pre-School.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 between Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, please email us immediately on [admin@smartinspreschool.com](mailto:admin@smartinspreschool.com).

Please check your email and text messages regularly during this period as we may need to contact you if your child has been in direct contact and therefore needs to self-isolate to keep you, your family, and our community safe.

Please also let us know, by email, if your child's return is going to be delayed in the new term because your household is self-isolating, whether this is due to contact with a positive case or recent travel abroad.

If any members of your household experience symptoms of coronavirus during the holiday period, please remember to still book a test through NHS Test and Trace and be prepared to share contact details of anyone you, or they, have been in close contact with if the result is positive. Please remember, the guidance for self-isolation has recently changed and people will need to isolate for 10 days if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.

If your household is due to travel abroad for Christmas, please remember that you will all need to self-isolate for 10 days when you return, unless you have travelled to a country on the government's travel corridor list.

Here is a short overview of some of the fun and learning we have enjoyed during the second half of the autumn term, and information for the spring term.



### **Guy Fawkes**

For Guy Fawkes night we conducted a science experiment for the morning and afternoon children. The children thought about safety and anticipated what might happen as we added the ingredients to the homemade rocket. We practised counting as we waited for the blast off! Lots of children were interested in exploring the mixture to find out how it worked.



### **Diwali**

For Diwali, the children practised their listening skills, enjoying a visual story of the festival of light. They made their own Diyas using homemade salt dough. Mixing up the dough was an opportunity for the children to learn some new vocabulary, as they observed the ingredients change texture and noticed changing quantities.



### **Remembrance**

On Remembrance Day, the children had a look at a war medal and a photograph of John, who flew a plane during WWII. Following tradition, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, we all observed the two minutes silence using the sand timer. The morning children practised their scissor skills by cutting the circle shapes to make poppies for our wreath. The afternoon children explored mark making by using their hands and fingers to print poppies onto their paper plate wreaths.



### **Children in Need**

Thank you to everyone who dressed up and donated to our collection in aid of our local Phab club - a charity providing support and opportunities for children, young people, and adults with and without special needs and disabilities, to break down community barriers and reduce isolation. The children enjoyed dressing up and we took this opportunity to talk about the need to care for and help others.



### **St Andrew's Day**

For St Andrew's Day, the children looked at the map of the UK and we identified where Epsom is on the map of Great Britain and then looked for Scotland. We talked about the St Andrew's cross on the Scottish flags and some children practised cutting and drawing to make a flag.



### **Christmas**

The children have enjoyed lots of crafts and activities to celebrate the Christmas period. The children have all enjoyed listening to the story of the Nativity and the morning children have been very busy performing Christmas songs for their performance, which you can access via the link sent on the separate email earlier this week. We hope you all enjoyed this! Thank you to all the families for raising funds in aid of the Pre-School by purchasing your child's design printed on cards, mugs, and other objects.



### **Snack**

Thank you all for the healthy snacks which you have sent in for your child this term.

## **Next half term!**



## **Parent meetings**

In January we will send out appointments for our afternoon families to catch up with their child's key person.



## **Chinese New Year**

When we return to Pre-School in January, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year! The children will make a dragon and take part in a dragon dance. This year we are very fortunate to have welcomed Angela to our team who has offered to provide an exciting Chinese New Year inspired learning opportunity!

## **Valentine's Day**

Valentine's Day will provide an opportunity for the children to think about the people who are important to them.

## **Shrove Tuesday**

For Shrove Tuesday, we will enjoy our annual pancake tossing experience which always leads to lots of laughs.

## **Head Lice**

We have had several children at pre-school over the last week of term with head lice. Please can you check your child's hair and treat them accordingly!

We wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all again, at the start of next year. We return on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**St Martin's Pre-School Team**

## **Useful links**

**The Samaritans** – support with ‘whatever you are going through’:

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

**Crisis** – for those faced with homelessness:

<https://www.crisis.org.uk/>

**Citizens Advice** – for information and advice for all. Currently updated with latest Coronavirus information.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

**NHS** – For all the latest medical advice and guidance – including Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.nhs.uk/>

**Eric** - for help with potty training

<https://www.eric.org.uk/>

**Family Information Service** – useful local information relating to services for children and families living in Surrey

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/families>

**SEND Local Offer** – Online hub for 0-25 year olds with Special Educational Needs or a Disability

<https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/kb5/surrey/localoffer/home.page>

**NSPCC** – Safeguarding and child protection. Find information here regarding COVID-19 and returning to school.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>