



Registered Charity Number 1155711
01372 721 111

February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well. Please find an overview of some of the fun and learning we have enjoyed this term.



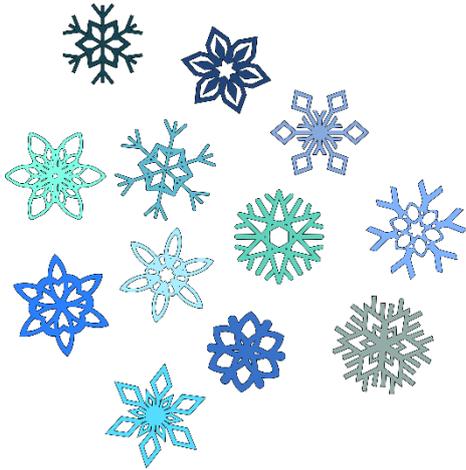
Elvis' Birthday

On the 8th January the Pre-School children joined in with the annual celebrations to mark the King of Rock's 86th Birthday! We listened to some of Elvis' music and some of the children's favourite music, whilst we had a dance. The morning children enjoyed listening to a visual story about Elvis' life and lots of them shared their thoughts about their own lives.



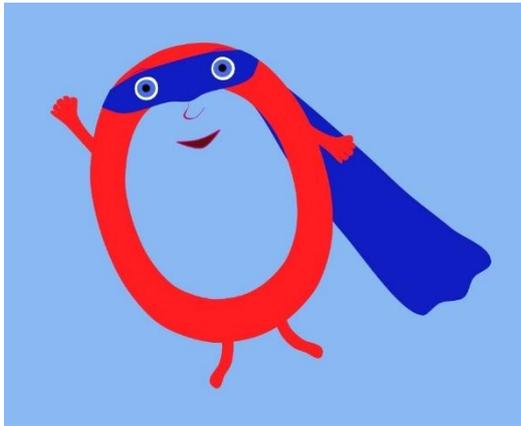
Burns Night

During the week of the 25th January, we introduced the children to the Scottish festival – Burns Night. We love to talk to the children about the British Isles and took the opportunity to look for Scotland on the globe, to have a dance to some Scottish music and to have a look at some Scottish visuals – flag, tartan, bagpipes. Some of the children made their own patterns using the coloured unit cubes.



Snow

We were lucky enough to see the snow this half term! Lots of the children enjoyed this experience and it was a great opportunity to think about how exercise can keep our bodies warm. Many of the children enjoyed collecting up the snow and waiting to see what would happen if we took it inside.



Superhero

Many children enjoyed our superhero themed day, where they made their own superhero masks and navigated an exciting obstacle course to rescue characters hanging in the trees. This day was an exciting opportunity for the children to learn about helping and caring for others, along with developing their imaginative play skills.



Vegetables

This half term we explored vegetables during play. We have used them with the diggers in the garden to transport and fill containers, to paint with and for pretend cooking. If you have a fussy eater at home, introducing unwanted food into their play could be a great way to build tolerance, which may eventually mean that it is accepted and even eaten!



Shrove Tuesday

To mark Shrove Tuesday, which is during half term on the 16th, we all enjoyed trying some pancakes for our snack, and taking turns to flip them.



Chinese New Year

During our last week of term, we all really enjoyed marking Chinese New Year! Angela made the wonderful decorations around our door which were personalised with a message for the Pre-School which read "children enjoy a joyful time here" and "warmth and comfort to St Martin's". The morning children enjoyed the Chinese objects that Angela brought in and all children enjoyed painting a huge dragon head to use as they joined in with the Dragon Dance.

Focus on Literacy!

Jolly Phonics

Our morning children have started Jolly Phonics this term which we will continue to revisit for the rest of the year. Please see a link to YouTube where you can see the songs we all enjoy together.

[JOLLY SONGS A- Z JOLLY SONGS - YouTube](#)



One of the best things you can do to help your child develop literacy skills is to share lots of stories together. Talk about what is happening in the pictures and point to the words so that your child begins to realise that words carry meaning.

As your child develops, you can introduce them to the concepts of rhyme and alliteration as you share stories together.

At Pre-School we encourage the children to notice when we are writing their name on their paintings or creations. As they become ready for it, they begin to make their own marks to represent their name and eventually they will become interested in copying the letters in their own name. It is really important that the children are given these opportunities, and that they do not feel pressured in any way. Some of the children will not be ready to write their name until they get to school, and this is perfectly fine.

Next half term



Parent meetings

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



Suitable clothing

Please make sure your child is wearing suitable clothing for the outdoors. We have had some very cold weather lately and the children are all so keen to be in the garden.

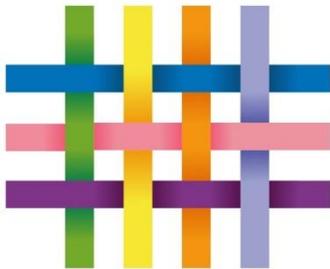


Woodwork

We are very, excited to announce that from next half term we will be introducing woodwork to the children. Elizabeth has attended some training in this and has previously successfully introduced it at her former nursery where it proved to be a very, valuable opportunity for the children.

Please be reassured that this activity will be very carefully supervised and introduced slowly. There will be a dedicated area which will be fenced off and the children will eventually be supervised at a ratio of 1:2. Where necessary, children will be supervised 1:1. Tools will be used with adult supervision and will be locked away when not in use. We have taken the decision not to introduce saws. Children will be introduced to a hammer and nails, pliers, spirit level and hand drill. If you have any further questions, please speak to one of the team.

Please can we ask for donations of soft wood, if any of our families have any at home.



Tapestry

We are always looking at better ways to do things and after half term we will be introducing a new approach to Tapestry. We will continue to record weekly group observations of all children which we believe help our families gain an insight into the fun and learning the children enjoy together at Pre-School. In addition to the group observations, each week, one group of children will be observed by their key person. This means that your child will be observed individually, over the course of one week during every half term. We believe this approach will help us to record a snapshot of each child's individual development and learning, showing their progress from term to term. You are very welcome to continue to record your own observations on an ad hoc basis which we always look forward to seeing.

Lunch boxes

To help us keep the Pre-School COVID safe, please can we ask that your child's lunch bag is regularly laundered in the washing machine.

Next term we are looking forward to the following celebrations and events.

St David's Day, 1st March

We cannot wait to get the globe out again for St David's Day!

World Book Day, 4th March

We are looking forward to a dress up day for World Book Day.

Mothering Sunday, 14th March

We will all be thinking of the people we love, especially our mums and dads.

St Patrick's Day, 17th March

The Pre-School globe will be out again and there may be a shamrock or two!

Red Nose Day, 19th March

Comic relief this year and a fun day at Pre-School where there will be a few jokes shared.

Living Eggs, 15th – 26th March

We are hoping to have some chicken eggs for the children to watch hatch into chicks.

Easter

The children will enjoy an egg hunt in the garden and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Term Dates

Our last day of the spring term will be Wednesday 31st March. We return to Pre-School for the summer term on 19th April 2021.

Have a lovely half term break! Pre-School re-opens on Monday 22nd February.

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/>