



Registered Charity Number 1155711

Dear Parents/Carers

Please find below an overview of some of the fun and learning we have enjoyed this half term!



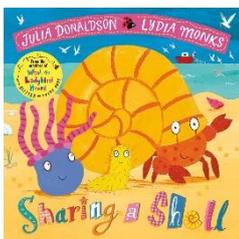
Ramadan and EID

To start the half term, the children enjoyed learning about Ramadan, creating our display, and cooking biscuits to celebrate Eid! During group times, we shared stories and books about Ramadan and Eid, and the children thought about the importance of helping others, as we discussed the purpose of fasting and giving to others. We hope our families enjoyed their own Eid celebrations!



St George's Day

We all enjoyed the story of St George and the Dragon, we thought about England as the place we live, and had a look at the St George's Cross on the English flag. During free play, the children made shields and crowns which led to some other imaginative creations with our junk modelling resources!



Good Choices

This half term we have been focusing on our good choices. Many of the children offered their ideas about what a good choice is, or what might not be a good choice. Further, the children thought about scenarios and what might happen, how self/others might feel, and what they could do during situations. This helped the children understand what is expected of them at Pre-School, how to be a good friend

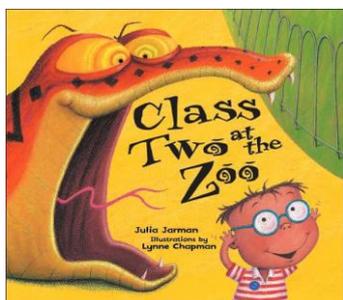
and how to keep themselves safe. Other activities include social stories about caring, being kind and friendships including Rainbow Fish, Sharing a Shell and Pip and Posy.

Some examples of our Good Choices include:

- **Walking feet** - we use walking feet when we are inside.
- **Sitting on a chair** - we sit down when we are eating.
- **Tidying up** – we all help to tidy.
- **We share** – we are kind.
- **We take turns** – we are fair.
- **Use kind hands** - we do not hurt others when we are cross or upset.
- **Use listening ears and looking eyes** – we show others that they are special by listening to them and looking at them.
- **Good sitting** - we show good sitting and put up our hand if we would like to talk during group times.



We introduced Star of the Day for our morning children, where the good choice of one child is celebrated every day. The child receives a certificate in front of the group, who clap to acknowledge the achievement.



One of our core stories this half term was Class Two at the Zoo, which is a fun, rhyming story.

During story time, we regularly share rhyming stories and ensure that the children start to notice when words sound the same. We talk about rhyme and alliteration, although these concepts can become very confusing for children. It is so important that the children enjoy their learning, and we never spend too long 'teaching' concepts. By providing plenty of opportunities to join in with stories, games, and rhymes the children will naturally develop an understanding and begin to distinguish between the two concepts.

Rhyme – words sound the same – cat, bat, mat.

Alliteration – words begin with the same initial letter sound – cute, cuddly cat.

Phonics, rhyme, and alliteration

During our circle time and group times, we share Jolly Phonics with the older children. We have found that the Jolly Phonics songs are a great introduction to phonics which appeal to younger children ensuring they hear the correct sounds. As a foundation to phonics, we provide listening and attention

activities for our younger children such as 'What's in the Box.' We use musical instruments and other objects so children practise listening and distinguishing between sounds.

Sound discrimination games

Sound discrimination games are part of stage 1 phonics and will support your child to develop listening and attention skills and begin to distinguish between different types of sounds. Here is a link to a fantastic resource.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/eyfs-listening-skills/zbc4y9g>

Link to the Jolly Phonics songs <https://youtu.be/yVvry9jpVjl>

Please note that these links are from external providers and should be accessed with parental supervision.

Focus on transitions

As the older children get ready to leave us for their new school and our younger children prepare for morning sessions or longer days, we are beginning to talk about some of these changes with them. During our group sessions, we will talk about the expectations at school - such as to show good sitting and listening and all the amazing things they are going to learn. This can become a very anxious time for the children, and it is important that we do not add to their anxieties but help them to talk and express themselves. Our persona doll Yusef is always on hand to help with this task, and he will be joining our morning sessions regularly throughout the summer term to talk about his own anxieties. Yusef is a very, special doll. We treat him as a real boy and the children learn to treat him as though he is one of their friends. We find the children always feel much better about their own worries and problems when they discover that Yusef has these problems too! Our younger children have not met Yusef yet, but he will be joining them at the end of term to introduce himself and to talk about summer holidays and coming to Pre-School in the morning.

We will send transition summaries to receiving schools and the schools will all have their own set of arrangements for new starters which we always endeavour to accommodate.



Footwear and Sun cream

As the weather warms up, please may we remind you that the children must wear suitable footwear which will keep them safe whilst they play at Pre-School. We do not consider open-toe sandals or Crocs suitable for the Pre-School environment and ask for your support so that we can avoid any unnecessary accidents.

We ask you to apply sun cream to your child before they arrive at Pre-School. If your child attends for long day (6 hours+), you can provide sun cream in the morning, and we will reapply when required. You must only supply cream which you have previously applied and know is safe to use on your child. We will ask you to complete a treatment plan.

Please may we ask you not to put any creams or medicines in your child's bag. These items must be handed directly to a member of staff so that we are aware.



People who help us

We would love to arrange for the children to receive a visit from some of the people who help us e.g., a police officer, doctor, dentist, fire officer, nurse, or vet. If you have a friend or member of your family who would happily visit to talk with our pre-school children, please let us know!

Next half term



Parent meetings

This is the last half term at Pre-School for our older children! You will receive a transition summary from your key person during the week of the 4th July. Please contact the Pre-School if you would like to arrange a meeting or if you have any concerns. We will also provide each family with a copy of their child's Learning Journey from Tapestry on a memory stick for you to keep.

Telephone appointments for Suzie's new key children will take place during June / July too.

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

10th June – A visit from Zoolab, with their exotic animals (morning children only)

11th June - The Queen's official birthday

16th June – Caterpillars arrive! The children will learn about life cycles as they watch the caterpillars change into butterflies!

19th June - Father's Day

15th July - Bocketts Farm Trip (morning children only)

15th July – Pre-School closed for afternoon children

22nd July - Party Day!

Please let us know if there are any celebrations or events that you would like us to celebrate or introduce the children to.

Music with Catherine will continue throughout June and July for our morning and afternoon children.

End of term party

All children will be invited to join us for a party on the last day of term which is Friday 22nd July 2022. There will be no normal pre-school sessions this day, but a garden party from 10.30am – 1pm. There will be a children's entertainer from 10.30am. Please bring a picnic rug and a picnic to enjoy with your child. We will present Certificates to the children leaving pre-school and there will be an opportunity to take photos of your child.



Internet safety

Please may we remind you to be very vigilant when your child is using the internet, including YouTube. We are concerned about Huggy Wuggy which seems to have troubled some of our children. We do not believe that this character or associated game is suitable for children.

Reminders:

Pre-School is closed on Monday 6th June. We return after the half term break on Tuesday 7th June 2022. Autumn term dates – Monday 5th September – Friday 16th December (half term week 24th October)



Earlier this year I notified our management committee of my intention to resign at the end of this summer term. Following my decision, I am delighted to announce that the Pre-School Committee has successfully recruited a fantastic new manager, Teri Morris. Teri will be joining us on the 7th of June and there will be a two-week handover period between myself and Teri.

After ten years at the Pre-School and five years as the manager, I would like you to know how much I have valued my time at St Martin's. It has been fantastic to work with such a highly dedicated, talented, and friendly team. I have been proud to be part of our successes over the years and, most of all, it has been an honour to play a role in the lives of your wonderful children at such a pivotal time in their lives. I would like to reassure you all that the Pre-School will be left in very good hands, and I anticipate a very smooth transition.

All paperwork for our older children will be completed soon after half term. My key children will receive their summaries from Thursday 9th June and Teri will become the point of contact for these families from the 20th June.

I am sure you will all join us by providing Teri a very warm welcome after half term.

Thank you for all your support and I wish all our children and families my best wishes for the future.

Kindest regards

Hayley Dawson
Manager, SENCO, Deputy DSL

Useful links

Useful links

Epsom Foodbank – essential emergency service for people unable to afford food.

[Epsom and Ewell Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

Home-Start – a local community network of trained volunteers and expert support helping families with young children through their challenging times.

[Home-Start 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>

NSPCC – Safeguarding and child protection.

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

NSPCC: Internet Safety - Please see the attached link from the NSPCC which provides information regarding internet safety.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

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/>

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>

I Can – communication charity.

[I CAN, the children's communication charity](#)