



Worple Road, Epsom KT18 7AA  
Registered Charity Number 1155711  
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30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers



### **Zoolab**

Zoolab visited our morning children and we were able to hold a giant centipede, an African snail, a gecko, and a cockroach, we also stroked a snake and watched the tarantula. We learnt lots of amazing facts and moved our bodies like some of the animals. Our afternoon children will get a chance to experience Zoolab on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.



### **Stick insects**

The stick insects have grown very big and are fully mature and so can lay eggs. We recently discovered we now have a baby too. The children have enjoyed trying to find it with magnifying glasses as it is so tiny.

### **Sponsored Bounce**

The children thoroughly enjoyed the sponsored bounce event and did very well with the number of bounces they were able to do in one minute. We cheered each other on and counted the bounces together. The morning children split into two teams to see which team could do the most. The blue team just came out ahead with the blues getting 3005 bounces and the reds 2855. Well done everyone. We will let you know the final amount raised once all sponsored bounce money raised has been received.



### **Easter**

We have introduced children to the story of Easter and the symbol of the egg as new life. All children had the chance to make Easter Cards for their families. The children have been learning some new songs including the Peter Rabbit song for Easter.

### **Ramadan**

We have read the book 'Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns' to the children to explain this Muslim festival to the children, and made some vegetable pakoras. We also shared a song in Arabic the link for this song is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4TUOSm9uVO>.

### **Next term**



### **Living Eggs**

Our chicken eggs will arrive on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April. The children will enjoy watching the eggs in the incubator, until they hatch out into ten lovely chicks! We are hoping that several of the chicks will hatch while the children are present. The eggs will be numbered 1 – 10, and the children will enjoy guessing which number will hatch first. As the chicks grow a little stronger, every child will have the chance to touch or hold the chicks and to be involved in their care

The chicks will be mature enough to leave us on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. They will be moving to their new home with Suzie, who is currently installing a chicken house / run in her garden!



### **Parent meetings**

Next half term all our afternoon parents/carers will have an opportunity to catch up with their child's key person. We will provide an appointment list for each key person and ask you to sign up for a convenient time.

Please keep an eye out for the appointment lists, which will be outside pre-school from the week starting 24<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Starting School**

If your child is due to turn four by the 31<sup>st</sup> August, and you have applied for a place at primary school, you should expect to receive a response from the Council on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> April, which is the date of our return after Easter.

This can be a very unsettling time for the children as they become aware of the change. At Pre-School, we will start preparing the children for this transition, however, please keep in mind that there is a long term of Pre-School left. Through the years, we have found that the children usually find the idea of school easier to accept if this news is not immediately linked with the realisation that Pre-School will end. Of course, this news will need to be conveyed but tends to be much easier to accept a little closer to the time after lots of positivity around the idea of school.

To help with transition we will ask if teachers from the new schools would like to come to visit the children, and they do usually also arrange dates when your child can visit their new school. Please advise us of the school that your child will be moving to, together with any settling-in / induction sessions they will attend (if these overlap with normal session times).

### **Messy Stay & Play (afternoon children only) 12.45pm – 2.45pm**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, instead of our normal pre-school session, we will have an open afternoon from 12.45 – 2.45pm, so that parents, carers and afternoon children can come to Pre-School together to play! This is a lovely opportunity for you to see pre-school, get to know each other and to chat to our team members. This will also give you an understanding of messy play, why we do these types of activities, and the benefits to your child's learning and development from these experiences.

Please note that, although our team members will be present, parents / carers will be responsible for their children during the stay and play session.

There will be a normal afternoon session for our children who normally stay with us all day on a Friday.

### **Woodwork (morning children only)**

We will be providing an exciting opportunity for children to extend their imaginative and creative development, through woodwork which will support the children to learn about managing risks.

### **Show & Tell (morning children only)**

We will be giving children the opportunity to bring in something to show and tell their friends during talk time. The item should be something like a ticket or photo of some special event, or something you have found whilst out walking. More details of this will follow after half term and the children will be given a specific day to bring the item in should they wish to do so.

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

18 April – Therapy dog Willow is coming to visit

Ramadan shall continue until Eid al-Fitr 21<sup>st</sup> April

23 April - St George's Day

1 May - May Day

5<sup>th</sup> May – Messy stay and play (afternoon children only)

8<sup>th</sup> May – King’s Coronation

14<sup>th</sup> July – Bocketts Farm outing (morning children only) Although a long way off at the moment, we will have our annual outing to Bocketts Farm from 10am – 2pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. This is for our morning children only and, please note, that we will ask for children to be dropped off and collected from the farm.

14<sup>th</sup> July – Afternoon Children – please note that Pre-School will be closed for the normal afternoon session on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July, if you need to make alternative arrangements.

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

### **Funding for 3 and 4 year olds - 15 / 30-Hours Funding**

Children who were born up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 will be eligible for free early education funding from the beginning of the summer term. You will receive a Declaration Form to complete and return on your child’s first day back after Easter. It is important that you complete and return this promptly, so that we can claim funding for your child.

A reminder for all families who receive 30-hours funding, that you must renew your code every three months and by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 for the summer term.

We will continue to ask families for a voluntary contribution of £2.00 per session for all funded children, to help us meet the shortfall between the amount funded by the government per hour and our normal hourly rate.

### **Reminders**

Please do remember that we are a no nuts setting and we request that you do ensure that food provided for the children does not contain nuts or has the warning may contain nuts on it. Please can we take this opportunity to remind parents that snack should be a healthy option such as a piece of fruit or vegetable sticks.

### **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>

**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>

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

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

**I Can** – communication charity.

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