



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!



### **Messy Play Afternoon**

It was lovely to see our afternoon children bring in their parents/carers for our messy play afternoon. Many of the children enjoyed making playdough, making a volcanic scene with bicarbonate of soda, cornflour, cocoa powder and lemon juice, a sensory bear hunt walk on the patio, and bubble wrap tree painting. Andelka made an exciting shaving foam ice cream shop, which the children and families enjoyed very much! We hope everyone who came along enjoyed the afternoon.



### **Star of the Day**

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



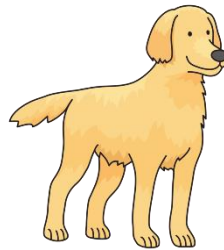
### **Show and Tell**

This half term we introduced 'show and tell' for our morning children, where children can bring something in that is important to them, to show and talk about to other children in the group.



### **Chicks**

This half term we were excited by the arrival of a batch of chicken eggs! The eggs were all numbered 1-10 and during the first two days the children patiently watched the incubator and guessed which egg would open first. We introduced the words 'hatch' and 'hatching' as the eggs cracked to reveal chicks inside! All children had the chance to hold the chicks, some preferring to look and stroke the chicks as an alternative. Looking after the chicks provided an excellent opportunity to learn about being gentle and careful. The chicks grew fast, and children noticed their big feet and wings, observing the feathers developing. Some of the chickens have gone to live permanently with Suzie and she is keeping the children updated with their progress!



### **Visit from Therapy Dog Willow**

At the beginning of this term, we had a visit from Judith with her Therapy Dog, Willow. The visit was very successful and enjoyed by all the children. Children were able to care for Willow, and they shared stories and asked questions. Judith is going to come back and visit us again at Pre-School on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July.



### **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 days (6 hours+), you can provide sun cream, 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, teacher, 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 / dates for your calendars**

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

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

7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> June – Caterpillars arrive! The children will learn about life cycles as they watch the caterpillars change into butterflies!

7<sup>th</sup> June – ‘Relax Kids’ sessions begin at Pre-School (please see below)

18<sup>th</sup> June - Father’s Day

22<sup>nd</sup> June (Thursday) Zoolab visit with their wriggly roadshow of exotic animals for our afternoon children!

27<sup>th</sup> June – Mark Kennedy Photographer returns to do ‘class photos’ of the morning and afternoon children. These will be taken at 11.15am and 12.30pm. Children who do not normally come to Pre-School on Wednesdays, can come along at these times, to be with their friends in the photo.

11<sup>th</sup> July – Stay and Play Session for our new children starting pre-school in September 3.45pm – 5.00pm

12<sup>th</sup> July – Judith returns with Willow, Therapy Dog

13<sup>th</sup> July – Stay and Play Session for our new children starting pre-school in September 3.45pm – 5.00pm

14<sup>th</sup> July - Bocketts Farm Trip (morning children only) 10am – 2pm (more details to follow)

14<sup>th</sup> July – Pre-School closed for afternoon children. To enable the outing to go ahead for our morning children, Pre-School will be closed for our afternoon children on this day.

21<sup>st</sup> July – Party Day and Leaver’s Celebration 10.30am – 1.30pm (more details to follow)

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

### **Focus on transitions**

As the older children get ready to leave us for their new school and our younger children prepare for morning sessions, lunch club or longer days, next half term we will begin 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.

Parents will receive a copy of the transition summary for their child, together with a memory stick containing their child's complete learning journey from Tapestry.

When you have dates/times when your child will visit their new class or school, please will you let us know.



### **Relax Kids – Morning Children**

To help with the morning children's transition to primary school, we have booked 'Relax Kids' sessions over the remaining seven weeks of the summer term.

These sessions will alternate between Wednesdays and Mondays and will take place during the normal pre-school session. Relax Kids sessions aim to improve and support children's emotional development and mental resilience and give children a range of practical tools, techniques, and strategies to help them relax and manage during times of stress.

We would like all children to benefit from these sessions, so if your child does not normally attend on a Monday morning or Wednesday morning, please consider increasing their sessions for the remainder of the summer term, so they get to take part in every session.

We have been able to book these sessions using some of the funds raised from our very successful 'sponsored bounce'. So, once again, thank you to all families who contributed.

<https://relaxkids.com/>

### **End of term picnic**

All children will be invited to join us, with their families for a picnic on the last day of term which is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023. There will be no normal pre-school sessions this day, but a garden party from 10.30am – 1.30pm. There will be a children's entertainer from 10.45am.

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.



### **Tops from Suckies / Smoothies / Yoghurt Drinks**

Please will parents save these for Pre-School, as we use them for junk modelling.



### **Class Tea-Towel (morning children)**

We will be sending off our order for the class tea-towel on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June. If you would like to order one, which will include the image your child has drawn, please will you let us have the order form and money by this date. £6.00 for one or £15.00 for three!

### **Traditional Dress (for children)**

Please can parents donate any outgrown traditional children's clothing from their culture, e.g. saree, kimono, hanfu etc.. Thank you!

Have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing the children back at Pre-School on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Best wishes

St Martin's Pre-School Team

### **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](#)